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History of Gage County, Nebraska

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Hugh J. Dobbs

HISTORY OF
GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

A NARRATIVE OF THE PAST, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS UPON THE PIONEER PERIOD OF THE COUNTY'S HISTORY, ITS SOCIAL, COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT FROM THE EARLY DAYS TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY
HUGH J. DOBBS

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
WESTERN PUBLISHING AND ENGRAVING COMPANY
1918

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HUGH J. DOBBS

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DEDICATED

This volume is affectionately dedicated to the memory of my parents and to the memory of the other pioneers of Gage county, living and dead, whose heroism called the county into existence and advanced upon its rolling prairie wastes the lines of civilized life.

PREFACE

This volume is divided into historical and biographical matter. For the former I am wholly responsible, but for the latter my responsibility is limited to a few biographical sketches — less than a dozen out of hundreds — the remainder having been prepared under the supervision of the Western Publishing and Engraving Company of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The chief value of the historical part of this book lies in its fidelity to facts. It is not claimed, however, that all has been set down that should have been written for a work of this character nor that the narrative is as complete in every instance as could be desired. Time and the limitations as to volume, imposed by my contract with the publishers, have both combined to set bounds to my work. Whatever faults the critical may discover in the following pages, this much can at least be truthfully said of this History — it constitutes an earnest effort to give both to the subscribers and the public, a readable and reliable history of Gage county, something that has not hitherto been attempted.

I am under personal obligations to many for assistance in the preparation of this history. Particularly do I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to A. E. Sheldon, secretary, and Mrs. Clarence S. Paine, librarian of the State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska; William Elsey Connelley, secretary of the State Historical Society of Kansas; Hon. Charles H. Sloan, congressman of the Fourth congressional district of Nebraska; Major A. L. Green, Mrs. Charles F. Gale, Earl Marvin of the Beatrice *Daily Sun*, Mrs. Anna R. Mumford, William R. Jones, and Mrs. Oliver Townsend, Beatrice; John A. Weaver and J. B. High, of the register of deeds office; Mrs. Mabel Penrod, county clerk, and F. E. Lenhart, clerk of the district court of Gage county; Mrs. Minnie Prey Knotts, Lincoln, Nebraska; Mentor A. Brown, Kearney; Mrs. Maud Bell, Tecumseh; A. D. McCandless and Charles M. Murdock, Wymore; Mrs. Elizabeth Porter, Wilber; Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Graham, William Craig, and Robert A. Wilson, Blue Springs; Homer J. Merrick, Adams; Miss Evelyn Brinton, Pickrell; Theodore Coleman, Pasadena, and Miss Benetta Pike, Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Lilian P. Scoville, San Juan, Porto Rico; Dr. James P. Baker, St. Louis, Missouri; Mrs. Julia Beatrice Metcalf, Portland,

Oregon; Joel Thomas Mattingley, Condon, Oregon; Louis Laflin, Crab Orchard; Hon. Peter Jansen, Andrew S. Wadsworth, Leonard A. Emmert, Clarence W. Gale, Beatrice; Robert H. Baker, Chicago; W. H. Brodhead, McKay, Idaho; and James H. H. Hewitt, Alliance, Nebraska.

I desire to express my sincere appreciation to the many subscribers to this volume who by letter or otherwise have shown a kindly interest in the work.

Very respectfully,

HUGH J. DOBBS

Beatrice, Nebraska, August 7, 1918

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CHAPTER I

THE DISCOVERERS

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS — ENGLAND AND FRANCE — FRENCH EXPLORERS AND MISSIONARIES — ROBERT CAVALIER DE LA SALLE — THE NEW WORLD — LOUISIANA

Nothing in human history exceeds in romantic interest the discovery and settlement of the New World. The first voyage of Columbus from the shores of Spain across the unknown waters of the Atlantic ocean, which the superstition of the times invested with every sort of mystery and danger, must always appeal to the imagination as an act of superlative daring — an event of first importance in the progress and happiness of mankind — for he, by adventuring where others dared not venture, by a single act revealed to the astonished gaze of Europe the existence of new lands of wonderful beauty and promise, where none were believed to exist; and, at a blow, dispelled forever the ignorance and fear which hitherto had enslaved the mind and paralyzed the endeavor of the most favored and most intelligent portion of the globe.

Columbus set sail from the port of Palos on the 3d day of August, 1492, with a fleet of three small vessels, the Pinta, the Santa Maria, and the Nina. He was accompanied by the tears and lamentations of the entire population of that small port, most of whom had relatives abroad the ships, and who, as the winding of the shore hid the little fleet from sight, abandoned all hope of ever again seeing the adventurous mariners alive. On board those small caravels the crews themselves, as the distance from the shores of Spain daily increased, were seized with fear and unrest, which greatly endangered the success of the expedition. But the confident Admiral held firmly to his course and pointed the prow of his flag ship steadily toward the west. The sea was smooth, the air soft and refreshing, nature herself seemed unusually propitious toward this momentous and daring enterprise. Soon the frail vessels came within the course of the trade winds and, with a constant and favoring breeze, the little squadron made rapid headway. Occasionally the crews sighted floating weeds and other objects which seemed to indicate the near presence of land and which served to cheer their spirits and invigorate their flagging zeal. On, on, on they sailed, day and night, always toward the west. Uneventful weeks passed without sight of land, but on the night of October 11, 1492, Columbus, who was stationed on the high cabin of the Santa Maria, saw at a distance across the water a faintly gleaming, uncertain light. Few of his crew were encouraged by this sign, though Columbus himself regarded it as a certain proof of the vicinity of land. At two o'clock on the morning of the 12th day of October, 1492, the little Pinta, which from her superior sailing ability was leading the other vessels, fired a gun, the agreed signal in case any of the ships should in the night time discover certain indications of land. The little squadron instantly lay to, eagerly awaiting the dawn. At last daylight slowly broke, and at a short distance the voyagers beheld a green and marvelously beautiful island, lying in a sapphire sea. It was San Salvador, the outpost of a newly discovered world. To their intense surprise, the Spaniards found this island densely populated by perfectly naked savages, so kindly disposed and unsuspicious as to regard the

newcomers as gods whom they were inclined to worship. Accompanied by the principal persons of his expedition, Columbus, richly attired, was rowed to the shore. Falling upon their faces, the party kissed the earth and gave thanks to Almighty God. Then unfurling the banner of Spain over this patch of land, Columbus took possession in the name of his sovereigns, Ferdinand and Isabella. A few days were spent in sailing the waters about this island, and having gathered from the natives that, toward the southwest, gold was to be found in lands of yet more surpassing beauty, Columbus, on the 24th day of October, 1492, turned his prows in that direction. On the fourth day of his voyage he beheld the noble shores of Hispaniola, now Cuba, rising out of the ocean before him. Charmed to ecstacy by the mildness of the climate, the beauty of the scenery, the gorgeous plumage of birds, the docility and intelligence of the natives, and the sunlit sea in which Cuba rests, queen of the waves, the soul of the great Admiral glowed with pride and satisfied ambition. He gave up his days to the luxury of his surroundings and to exploring the northern coast of the island, and on the 5th day of December, 1492, having passed the eastern extremity of Cuba, he saw toward the southeast, looming out of the ocean, a new island — high and mountainous, Hayti, the most beautiful and most unfortunate of all the West Indian islands. Here, freed by the softness of the climate and the wonderful fertility of the soil, from toilsome labor, he found a native population that passed its days in indolence and repose. Having lost the Santa Maria by an accident of the sea and being deserted by the Pinta, commanded by Pinzon, Columbus now resolved to begin his homeward voyage. Departing from Hayti January 4, 1493, after a most perilous voyage, guided by the hand of Providence, on the 15th day of March following, he again cast anchor in the little harbor of Palos. He left Spain poor and unknown, he returned rich with honors, having gained the right to have his name forever first on the roll of discoverers, as well as that of those who by greatly daring, greatly achieve.

Columbus carried with him to Spain several natives of the islands, together with products of the soils of these new lands, notably tobacco, coffee, and potatoes, with fruits and spices, as evidence of his discoveries. The great and unusual honors bestowed upon him by the proudest and most powerful court of the world, with the graphic report which he was able to make to his sovereigns of his wonderful voyage and the marvelous possibilities suggested by his discoveries, electrified every portion of the globe where civilization had obtained the slightest foothold. Fired partly by religious zeal, partly by love of adventure and thirst for fame, and partly by the commercial incentive to discover and open an all-water route for trade between Europe and the East Indies, the maritime nations of western Europe joined enthusiastically in voyages of discovery to the western hemisphere.

Columbus himself continued in the great work of discovery till he had added to the memorable voyage of 1492 three others to the New World. Island after island rose out of the depths of the ocean before him. But in none of his voyages did the great discoverer touch either of the American continents. Ignorant of the vast extent of the ocean, he imagined that he had reached only the threshold of India and that he was upon the point of realizing his lifelong dream of an open, all-water route to Cathay — land of jewels and spices. With feverish energy he sought the one factor which alone, as he supposed, could give value to his priceless discoveries. But gold was rare in those islands, fanned by the great trade winds, and yielding only bloom and fruitage, heaped as by magic upon the bosom of the Atlantic.

On his third voyage, in 1498, Columbus came upon the large island of Trinidad, which lies off the coast of South America, near the mouth of the Orinoco river. Cruising about this island, he found to his surprise that the waters of the narrow strait that separates it from the main land were sweet and fresh, and gazing westward he beheld what he conceived to be the low-lying lands of a yet larger island extending twenty leagues or more along the

coast. Never dreaming that these fresh, sweet waters were those of a mighty river that drained a continent and the low-lying lands the eastern edge of that continent, he sailed away to Hayti to visit a colony which he had founded there on his second voyage, in 1496. From this visit he was sent to Spain a prisoner in chains, and he died at Valladolid, May 20, 1516, poor and neglected, old and broken, at sixty years of age, already robbed by Americus Vespucci, an obscure adventurer, of the honor due to his memory, of bestowing his own name on the great New World which his genius and faith had disclosed to mankind.

In a material sense, the net result of his four voyages of discovery was to add to the known portions of the earth those groups of archipelagoes in the western Atlantic which are collectively known as the West Indies, and which, sweeping in a wide curve from Florida to the mouth of the Orinoco, screen the Caribbean sea from the gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic ocean — islands of ravishing beauty, marvelous fertility, delightful climate, teeming with the products of nature.

But who shall ever be able rightly to weigh the tremendous influence of this simple-hearted man upon the physical and mental horizon of the world? The people of all western Europe by the middle of the fifteenth century had so far emerged from the "Dark Ages" as to be measurably free from the forms of government which had characterized the feudal system, and for the first time since modern Europe had arisen from the fragments of the Roman empire its governments were in the hands of able rulers, while national policies had displaced government by individual whim or caprice. It was the age of the Renaissance and the revival of learning. The world was undergoing the process of a new birth. The foolish superstitions and practices which had prevailed for centuries under the forms and guise of religion were rapidly passing away. A universal activity and zeal for the cause of learning had aroused mankind to a sense of its needs. France, England, Spain, Portugal, were rapidly assuming the dignity and self-importance of empire. In the very midst of this tremendous activity and of these vague longings and dreams of national aggrandizement, came Columbus home from the voyage into the unknown, with almost incredible tales of golden islands beyond the furthest rim of the western sea. The vast evolution which was rapidly bringing freedom to mankind throughout western Europe had already prepared maritime nations to a large extent for the discovery of a new world, and, as if by the intervention of Providence itself, this great event was made to serve as an outlet for their highest ambitions.

It is foreign to the aim and purpose of this history to narrate in detail the great work of discovery, exploration, and colonization of America which followed its discovery by Columbus. We know that for years Spain led the other nations in the number, extent, and value of her enterprises. In less than forty years after the death of the great Admiral, she had established her hold on the West Indies by right of discovery, and had grasped by the bloody hand of conquest Mexico, Central America, the isthmus of Panama, the isthmus of Darien, and the continent of South America — a domain which in natural resources rivalled continental Europe, and which for unbroken centuries poured a golden stream into her national treasury. In addition to all this, she claimed Florida by right of its discovery, on Easter Day, 1512, by the aged cavalier, Juan Ponce de Leon, sailing in search of the fountain of perpetual youth, and she laid claim also to the basin of the Mississippi, on account of the discovery of that historic stream by Hernando de Soto, in 1541, and its exploration in part by him and the wandering remnant of his followers after he had sunk to rest in its mighty flood. With more or less definiteness, Spain asserted for centuries proprietary rights in the whole of North America, on account of the achievements of Columbus and those Spanish navigators who followed him.

But her rivals, and particularly England and France, were quick to perceive the tremendous possibilities involved in the possession of lands in the western hemisphere, where, at almost

a single bound and at a trifling cost in money and life, national wealth, national resources, and territorial dominion might be immeasurably increased.

Thus it came about that in 1498, when Columbus, looking westward from the island of Trinidad, saw the shores of South America, Sebastian Cabot, sailing under a commission from Henry VII of England, discovered and explored the eastern portion of North America from Labrador to Cape Hatteras, thereby affording ground for England's claim to all portions of the continent of North America from the middle shore of the Atlantic ocean to the crest of the Alleghany mountains.

Francis I, King of France, early in the sixteenth century, turned his attention to discovery, exploration, and colonization in the New World. In 1524 John Varrazani, a Florentine in the service of France, sailed from the shores of Europe with four vessels, in search of an all-water route to Asia. Directing his course nearly to the west, on the 7th of March he discovered the main land of the continent, in the latitude of Wilmington, North Carolina. He explored this coast from one hundred and fifty miles south of Wilmington to the remotest point of New England, reaching Newfoundland in the latter part of May. In July he returned to France and published an account of his wonderful voyage, which attracted wide attention, but ten years were suffered to elapse before another effort was made to repeat his experiment. Beginning with 1534, French navigators, aided by their government, flocked across the Atlantic, explored the eastern coast of the great northern continent, circumnavigated Newfoundland, entered the gulf of St. Lawrence and ascended the noble St. Lawrence river. They founded scores of towns, including Port Royal (now Annapolis, Nova Scotia), Quebec, and Montreal. French adventurers, trappers, hunters, penetrated the wilderness to the Great Lakes; black-robed French missionaries preached the gospel over wide areas to savage tribes by lake and stream far into the interior. No fairer pages of history can be found than those which record the exploration and settlement of New France, as the French possessions in North America came to be known. From the early part of the sixteenth century to the latter part of the seventeenth century, this work went continually forward. It was closed by the rediscovery of the Mississippi river by Joliet and his companian, the heroic Jesuit missionary, Father Marqette, in 1673, and by the exploration of that mighty stream from the Illinois to its mouth by La Salle, in 1682.

The name of Robert Cavalier de La Salle will be forever spoken with respect by every man who is at all conversant with his daring and adventurous achievements. No more conspicuous name adorns the annals of colonial history in North America. Amidst the vacillating and shifting policy of Louis XIV and his ministers with respect to the French possessions in the New World, where much was promised and little done, La Salle, with the prevision of genius and great statesmanship, saw more clearly than any other man of his race that the road to empire for France lay in the lakes, rivers, savannahs, and wildernesses of North America. Not only was the prevision of empire his but he possessed also the imagination to conceive and the power and will to put into execution the plans which should have been the colonial policy of France from the first. La Salle was a Norman, born at Rouen in 1643; he was educated by the Jesuits, with whom he spent ten years as a student and from whom he acquired a habit of rigorous abstraction. Abnormally reticent about himself and his work, he made few close friends and many bitter enemies. He was persistent, active, determined, and brave to a fault. In 1660 he left France for Canada. By that time the French possessions in North America had become known to the world as New France and comprised the entire basin of the St. Lawrence river, the Great Lakes region, Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and that part of Maine lying in the basin of the St. Lawrence. To the vain and licentious Louis XIV New France offered but a small and unpromising field for the display of his glory and power

and the gratification of his ambitions. It cost money to colonize, defend, and develop the distant province, and Louis was wasting his resources and exhausting the nation in desolating wars with England and the Holy Alliance. He had at last been prevailed upon to send to New France, in 1672, the ablest and most disinterestedly patriotic of all French governors, Count Louis de Frontenac, who, like La Salle, foresaw the approaching struggle for the continent between Protestant England and Catholic France, and was, like him, gifted with the prevision of empire in the New World.

On arriving in Canada, La Salle settled on an estate nine miles below Montreal, on the St. Lawrence. Here he came in contact with roving bands of Iroquois, who told him of a mighty river, far to the west, which rose in their country, flowed westward and he who followed its course for nine months, entered a wide sea. They called this river Ohio, meaning probably to include with it the Mississippi from the mouth of the Ohio to the gulf. La Salle pondered this important information. Like other explorers, he was imbued with the idea of discovering an all-water route to India; and he argued that the discovery of this stream might enable him to reach the Pacific, whose waves he knew in their far course broke on the distant shores of Cathay. With a few Franciscan monks, known as seminary priests, and some men at arms, with the aid of Frontenac, he organized an expedition to explore the region of country west of the Alleghanies, drained, as he believed, by the river described by the Iroquois. Little is known of this venture into the wilderness beyond the fact that the expedition reached the Ohio and descended its course as far at least as Louisville, Kentucky. In 1670 we hear of La Salle again wandering amongst the forests that border the Illinois and exploring the region drained by that stream, but again he stopped short of the great river.

Fort Frontenac had been erected near the outlet of Lake Ontario, on its northern shore, and here in 1678, La Salle was in command of this, the most advanced military outpost of New France. In this environment this remarkably grave, solitary, thoughtful man ruled with absolute authority over a wide region of country. His days were spent amongst the Indians, half-breeds, traders, trappers, voyageurs, and couriers de bois (rangers of the woods), harkening to their strange tales of the wilderness and prairies, of river and lakes, Indian tribes, and the wild life of the woods and plains. Slowly, slowly, he matured the great design of uniting by a bold stroke these unknown and unexplored wilderneses to New France, thereby laying the foundation for a French empire in the New World. La Salle knew that Joliet and the black-robed priest Marquette had in 1673 rediscovered the Mississippi river under Indian guidance, by following the course of the Wisconsin, and had paddled down the great river as far as the mouth of the Arkansas, leaving the question of its ultimate termination still in doubt. By some of his associates it was thought that the Mississippi flowed into the Pacific ocean, others that it discharged its waters into the Atlantic, and some that the gulf of Mexico received its mighty flood. The determination of this vital question was in La Salle's mind the first step toward empire. Resigning his command at Fort Frontenac, he applied for a commission from the king to explore the vast unknown region lying south and west of Canada and the Great Lakes, but such were the difficulties and hardships which he encountered that four years expired after receipt of his commission before he was able to undertake the great adventure. In February, 1682, with a small fleet of canoes, and accompanied by about thirty Frenchmen and a band of Indians from western Canada, La Salle descended the tranquil Illinois. His course was impeded at first by floating ice, but at Peoria lake he struck clear water, and on the 6th day of February, 1682, the small flotilla of canoes issued upon the bosom of the mighty Mississippi.

Without a moment's hesitation, the canoes were pointed with the swift current and the momentous voyage which was to determine the course of the Mississippi was begun. The

party floated and paddled rapidly down its current, traveling only by daylight. Day by day they drifted swiftly, almost silently, toward unknown destinies. Slowly the mysteries of the New World unrolled before them like a scroll. The winter passed into spring, and in the bright sunlight and drowsy atmosphere they saw the tender foliage clothe again the wilderness. They passed numerous Indian villages, some of which they visited, and where they occasionally spent the night. Not infrequently they encountered Indians in huge war canoes, but, avoiding all hostile encounters, they drifted on and on toward their objective — the mouth of the Mississippi. They noted the steady trend of the river, through dense forests, swampy cane-brakes, wild-rice fields that lay along the shore, ever toward the south. Doubt finally dissolved into certainty; they knew that it led on through semi-tropical lands to the heaving billows of the gulf of Mexico. On the 6th day of April, 1682, exactly two calendar months since they had embarked on the river, they reached its delta, where its mighty flood divides into three channels. Directing D'Autray to follow the eastmost channel with some of the canoes, the Count Henry Tonty the middle channel, La Salle himself descended the western passage. Slowly paddling down these waterways, they noted soon the odor of brine in the freshening breeze and suddenly before these keen-eyed voyageurs the tumbling billows of the gulf of Mexico came into view.

Proceeding along the marshy shore, La Salle picked up one after another the canoes of his party and, assembling his followers on a dry spot of land a short distance above the mouth of the river, he caused a column of wood to be made on which he inscribed the following:

"Louis the Great, King of France and of Navarre, King.
April 9th, 1682."

Then marshaling his men at arms, amidst the fire of musketry, the shouts of "Vive le Roy" and the chanting of the Te Deum by the priests, while the Indian braves and their squaws looked wonderingly on, La Salle planted the column in its place. Standing near it he then in a loud voice delivered a proclamation, of which the following is part:

In the name of the most high, mighty, invincible and victorious prince, Louis the Great, by the grace of God king of France and of Navarre, Fourteenth of that name, I this ninth day of April, one thousand six hundred eighty-two, in virtue of the commission of his majesty which I hold in my hand and which may be seen by all whom it may concern, have taken and do now take, in the name of his majesty and of his successors to the crown, possession of this country of LOUISIANA, the seas, harbors, bays, ports, adjacent straits and all the nations, peoples, provinces, cities, towns, villages, mines, minerals, fisheries, streams and rivers within the extent of the said LOUISIANA.

Thus the great basin of the Mississippi river came under the scepter of Louis XIV, the most dissolute monarch of Europe, and thus at the word of a single daring explorer, standing on the lonely delta of that great river, the territory of Louisiana, out of which came Nebraska, was called into existence, a territory which comprised vast and unknown regions of dense forests, rich savannahs, sunbaked plains, apparently limitless prairie, watered by a thousand streams, peopled only by savage Indian tribes, the abode of buffalo and other wild denizens of the forest and plain; a territory which stretched from the pure springs of the far north whose confluent streams form the source of the mighty Father of Waters, to the hot marshy borders of the gulf of Mexico, and from the low-wooded crests of the Alleghanies on the east to the river of palms, the bold, naked peaks of the Rocky mountains and the sources of the Missouri of the west.

The New France of Robert Cavalier de La Salle and of Frontenac, comprising Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, the region of the Great Lakes and the territory of Louisiana, has long since been lost to its founders, but the memory of that glorious empire planted in the wilderness of North America, with incredible hardships and labors which only men of heroic mold could have endured, still survives to animate the souls of the thoughtful and the hearts of the daring.

CHAPTER II

TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA

As part of New France — Attempted Settlement by La Salle — His Assassination — Effect of Extension of New France to Mississippi Basin — France loses her Colonial Possessions in North America — Retrocession by Charles V — American Opposition — Jefferson and the Treaty of Ildefonso — Jefferson's Aims concerning Louisiana and the Mississippi — Threat of Alliance with England — Alarm of Napoleon by Threat of War — Livingston Admonishes Talleyrand — Arrival of Monroe — Cession to the United States — Price — Population — Ignorance of America concerning New Purchase — Explorations of Lewis and Clark

The history of Nebraska may properly be said to begin with the voyage of the heroic La Salle in 1682. An historical sequence of events leads the mind steadily forward from his discoveries till, by well defined processes of differentiation and elimination, a point is reached where the commonwealth of Nebraska stands forth clearly defined in the mighty sisterhood of states which comprise the North American republic.

In a comparatively short time after its discovery the vast territory of Louisiana became linked to Canada and the other French possessions in North America as an integral part of New France. This process was begun and carried forward by men animated by the desire to realize the ideal of its discoverer, which aimed at nothing less than a great interior French empire, composed of the most fertile lands in the world. The New France, as fashioned by the vision of La Salle, was to be yet fairer than the old, as the daughter will sometimes be fairer than the mother. The work of reclaiming the wilderness was first carried on by French traders, trappers, hunters, and wood rangers, who extended their activities over the greater portion of the Mississippi basin, extending south to the gulf of Mexico and west to and including Texas. Where these went the Jesuit and Franciscan monks followed, preaching the pure and gentle religion of the lowly Nazarene to the savage tribes who inhabited these wildernesses and plains.

The earliest effort to establish settlements in the new territory was made by La Salle, himself, in 1684. Shortly after his return from the long voyage to the mouth of the Mississippi he repaired to France, and was supplied with three vessels, including a ship of the line, and a body of troops and emigrants, for the purpose of establishing a colony and erecting fortifications to guard the great river from English and Spanish aggression. But he missed the mouth of the Mississippi and sailed westward to Mata Gorda bay, Texas. Dissension arose between him and the commander of the war vessel that accompanied him, and La Salle, leaving the ships with a few of the emigrants and men at arms, temporarily established his headquarters at that point and began a search for the Mississippi. Failing in his quest, he, in 1686, undertook to penetrate the wilderness to the Illinois, where Tonty had been directed to remain with supplies and men. While prosecuting this venture this remarkable man fell by the hand

of an assassin. Others took up the work of settling New France and occupying at least the lower basin of the Mississippi river; as a result of which New Orleans was founded in 1723, by Jean Baptiste Lemoine, sieur de Bienville. Settlements were made also in the Ohio valley and elsewhere in the wilderness west of the Alleghanies, so that by the middle of the eighteenth century a chain of forts and military posts had been planted by the French from Quebec along the St. Lawrence, the Niagara, the Detroit, the Illinois rivers, and the Mississippi river and some of its tributaries, to the bay of Biloxi, on the gulf of Mexico, while the region of the Great Lakes was guarded by similar outposts of defense. Such settlements were accompanied by the orderly forms of government, supported by the military forces of Canada and France, in the hope of guarding and defending from English aggression on the east and Spanish aggression on the south and west, the most valuable and extensive colonial territory ever possessed by a single European power in North America.

The extension of New France to the basin of the Mississippi river from source to mouth and westward from the heights of the Alleghanies, had the effect of setting metes and bounds to British possessions in the New World. Bitter and implacable rivalry arose between the English and French colonists, and bloody attacks and reprisals blur the annals of both Saxon and Gaul. Britain's claim of all North America from ocean to ocean by right of Cabot's discovery, and the stout resistance by the French to this claim, were the main causes of that series of sanguinary conflicts known in English colonial history as the French and Indian wars, which, beginning in 1690, with what is known as King William's war, raged with great fury and finally terminated at the close of the Seven Years' European war, in 1763, thirteen years before the commencement of the American Revolution. By treaties which marked the closing of these wars, striking changes were effected in North America. By the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, which marked the close of that colonial disturbance sometimes designated as Queen Anne's war, England made her first great inroad into French territory. By this treaty she obtained control of the valuable fisheries of Newfoundland, together with possession of Hudson bay, Labrador, Nova Scotia, and minor French possessions; and at the close of King George's war, in 1763, under the treaty of Paris, Canada itself and Cape Breton were ceded by France to England, with their territorial appendages, and the western boundaries of the English colonies were pushed beyond the Alleghanies to the eastern shores of the Mississippi river. Thus fell, as by a single blow, the dream of empire which had animated the soul of the courageous La Salle, and of which Count de Frontenac also had dreamed, and thus was laid the foundation of the vast colonial possessions of England in the New World.

Nothing remained to France of her proud colonial empire in North America except that portion of La Salle's discoveries which lay west of the Father of Waters and which had come to be designated in France as the province of Louisiana; all else had been swallowed up by her ancient rival, England. Even Louisiana passed immediately from her control, for on the very day of the execution of the treaty of Paris by which she was shorn of Canada and Cape Breton, she entered into a secret treaty with Spain, under which the last fragment of the empire of Frontenac and La Salle passed to that country. Thus by the acts of a weak and licentious sovereign, the land of Clovis and Charlemagne was stripped of every vestige of her rich colonial possessions in the New World, and thus ended the struggle for a continent between the two most enlightened nations in western Europe.

But the tragedy of Louisiana was not yet played to the end, nor indeed could be until its destiny was fulfilled. Its cession to Spain increased her colonial possessions in North America, till, with Mexico, they covered nearly half the continent. Whatever secret understanding may have existed between her and the court of Louis XV as to the retrocession of Louisiana in the future, Spain entered into possession of her new province shortly

after the treaty of Paris in 1763, hoisted her national emblem at New Orleans, city of Bienville, and, amidst the tears, protestations, and lamentations of the French inhabitants, established her authority over the province, which was to continue to the opening year of the nineteenth Christian century. During these forty-five years of Spanish rule in Louisiana province, most marked changes had taken place in France itself. The monarchy had fallen, the French Revolution had terminated, and an effort had been made to establish a republic, which ended in what is known in French history as the "Consular Government," with Napoleon Bonaparte as First Consul and as such the chief officer of state.

On October 1, 1800, a treaty was entered into between Charles IV of Spain and the consular government, whereby Louisiana was retroceded to France, entire, as respected its former boundaries. Peace had temporarily settled over Europe and Napoleon looked forward to a period of continued national prosperity, wherein he conceived it possible to realize, at least in part, the dream of the unfortunate La Salle. But the ink on the parchment whereon was written the treaty of Ildefonso was scarcely dry when a portentous war cloud suddenly obscured the rising sun of peace, wherein England, aiming at empire, threatened to involve France in another terrible conflict. Actual transfer of possession of the province to France was necessarily delayed and before it could be accomplished the news of the retrocession had reached the United States. The Spanish governor had rendered himself obnoxious to this country on account of certain trade restrictions affecting navigation on the Mississippi and by refusing at New Orleans what was known as the right of deposit.

It had become apparent that the expansion and growth of the United States demanded free access to the gulf of Mexico through the Mississippi. In this country it was understood too that by the treaty of Ildefonso France had obtained also what was then known as the Floridas, thus gaining control of the entire course of the great river to the gulf. Agitation was at once started having for its object the cession by France to the United States, of New Orleans, the Floridas, and that portion of the lower Mississippi basin which reached from the city to the Floridas. The settlers of the western states and territories bordering on the river, particularly those of Kentucky and Tennessee, which had suffered most from the unjust restrictions of the Spanish governor of New Orleans, were greatly excited and were angry to the point of desperation over the proposed extension of a single European power to the entire length of the great river. Resistance was urged to the point of seizing the lower Mississippi, with New Orleans, before the transfer of territory could be effected. In their petitions to congress the settlers declared: "The Mississippi is ours by the laws of nature, it belongs to us by our numbers and the labor we have bestowed on those spots which before our arrival were barren and desert. Our innumerable rivers swell it and flow with it to the Gulf of Mexico. Its mouth is the only issue which nature has given to our waters and we wish to use it for our vessels. No power in the world can deprive us of this right."

On February 13, 1803, Ross, a senator from the state of Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution in the United States senate directing the government to seize the port of New Orleans. It was seconded by Gouverneur Morris, of Revolutionary fame, then representing the state of New York in the senate. It was announced that volunteers from the Mississippi valley were ready at a word to carry this resolution into effect if sanctioned by congress. But the President, the able and prudent Jefferson, restrained this movement as dangerous to the peace of the country, and, preferring to achieve results by diplomacy rather than arms, he set before himself the task of acquiring the lower Mississippi basin by peaceful rather than by violent means. He first aimed to prevent if possible the cession of Louisiana to France and to exact from Spain recognition of the right of the United States to the unrestricted navigation of the

Mississippi. As an alternative, in case of failure, he proposed to form an immediate alliance with Great Britain. Writing to Robert Livingston, our minister in France, the President says:

There is on the globe one single spot the possessor of which is our natural and habitual enemy, — the day that France takes possession of New Orleans fixes the sentence which is to restrain her forever within her low-water mark. It seals the union of two nations who in conjunction can maintain exclusive possession of the ocean. From that moment we must marry ourselves to the British fleet and nation.

This threat had been most effectively dangled by our minister to France before the eyes of the First Consul and from the moment of receiving these instructions Mr. Livingston was able to speak in a tone that arrested Napoleon's attention, and aroused in him a sense of a new power beyond the seas. A year had gone by since the secret treaty of Ildefonso had come to the knowledge of our government, and Mr. Livingston had apparently made but little progress. In the spring of 1803, at Jefferson's instance, James Monroe was dispatched to France as special envoy and minister extraordinary to assist him in adjusting the irritating questions with respect to Louisiana and the Mississippi — questions which had sprung so suddenly into prominence and which were hourly becoming more menacing to the peaceful relations between France and the United States. Even yet the instructions to both ministers did not contemplate the acquirement of the whole of the territory of Louisiana. The most that was hoped for apparently was free navigation of that river for American commerce. To secure this, however, it was proposed that we purchase New Orleans and the Floridas from France, under the erroneous assumption that she had acquired the latter from Spain; and, by proper treaty stipulations, secure to both nations the right to free transportation. Not knowing the full terms of the treaty of Ildefonso, Mr. Jefferson instinctively felt that whatever they were they deeply concerned the United States, and he considered the moment had come to settle forever every question of policy or territory which might in the future occasion dissension with France. With clearer vision than any man of his day, Jefferson foresaw the tremendous advantages of removing every obstacle to the expansion of our country beyond the Mississippi. Guided by an instinctive prevision, he purposed to seize the moment to acquire control of that great stream and secure forever an unobstructed passage to the gulf. Failing to achieve this result by peaceful means, he determined to accomplish it by force, and when Monroe set out for France he carried instructions to demand the cession of New Orleans and the Floridas to the United States, and consequently the establishment of the Mississippi as a boundary between the United States and Louisiana. Mr. Livingston had already apprised Napoleon that such a demand would be made and the First Consul had considered it of sufficient weight to detain the armed expedition which was about to sail for Louisiana.

But the rapid march of events was working more powerfully in the interests of the American republic than any influence the government itself was able to exert. At almost the very moment the existence of the treaty of Ildefonso became known, came the portentous threat of war with England; and Napoleon feared that because of her superior naval power and the defenseless position of Louisiana, England was bound to deprive France of that province and yet further augment her power and prestige in the western hemisphere. There were other considerations which impelled the consular government of France to hearken favorably to the representations of Mr. Livingston. On the retrocession of the great province to Spain, and while the terms of the treaty were still a secret, in order to be in a position to defend Louisiana from a convenient base against aggression from whatsoever source, Napoleon had dispatched an army, under General LeClerc, to San Domingo in 1802. This was partly for the purpose of crushing the negro rebellion then at its height in that island and partly to have an army within striking distance of Louisiana.

But LeClerc was defeated by Toussaint l'Ouverture, and his army had been so decimated by war and disease that it had become ineffective as a military force. Besides these considerations, the increasing expense and difficulty of maintaining the power of France in Louisiana became every day more apparent to Napoleon and his advisers, while like a nightmare the haunting threat of Jefferson of an English alliance loomed before his vision.

By a strategic diplomatic movement as distinctive of his genius as any on the field of battle, the First Consul determined to defeat the arch enemy of France in its aggressive policy and at the same time with bands of steel bind to France the rising young republic of North America, whose ultimate destiny he foresaw was to dominate the western hemisphere.

The existence of the treaty of Ildefonso became known to Livingston in 1802, and in November of that year, learning that Napoleon had planned to send an expedition under General Victor to take possession of Louisiana, on behalf of the United States he submitted a definite offer to purchase New Orleans and the Floridas, leaving to France all the great territory lying west of the Mississippi. The reticence of both Napoleon and his chief minister of state, Talleyrand, with respect to the representations of our government, and the secrecy with which the terms of the treaty was guarded, led our minister to suspect designs against the United States itself. He warned Jefferson of his fears and advised the prompt strengthening of the military forces of the country in the lower basin of the Mississippi. A winter had passed without action on Livingston's offer of purchase, but Napoleon still delayed taking possession of Louisiana. Spring approached. Mr. Monroe was known to be on the high seas, hastening to the assistance of Livingston. His arrival was momentarily expected. But Napoleon, having reached a final conclusion, acted with the celerity that characterized all his movements. Returning to his palace at St. Cloud from the religious services on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1803, he called into consultation Decrés and Marbois, two of his most trusted advisers, and asked their opinion on the subject of the province of Louisiana. In the discussion which followed, he said:

I know the full value of Louisiana and have been most desirous of repairing the injuries to their country of the French negotiators of 1763. It has been restored to us by a few lines of a treaty. Now we face the danger of losing it. No doubt the English will seize it as one of their first acts of war. Already they have twenty ships of the line in the Gulf of Mexico. Its conquest will be easy. There is not a moment to lose in placing it beyond their reach. They have successively taken from France the Canadas, Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the richest portions of Asia. They shall not have Louisiana. While nothing can compensate us for its loss, it may be disposed of in such manner as ultimately to redound to our advantage.

The patriotic Decrés eloquently opposed the proposal. "France," he said, "needed colonies, and what colony could be more desirable than Louisiana? The navigation to the Indies by doubling the Cape of Good Hope had changed the course of European trade and ruined Venice and Genoa." And then, with prophetic vision, he asked, "What will be its direction if at the Isthmus of Panama a simple canal should be opened to connect one ocean with the other?" "The revolution which navigation will then experience" he declared, "will be still more considerable and the circumnavigation of the globe will become easier than the long voyages that are now made in going to and from India. Louisiana will then be on the new route and it will be acknowledged that this possession is of inestimable value. . . . There does not exist on the globe a single port, a single city susceptible of becoming as important as New Orleans."

Marbois admitted the gravity of the situation but supported the view of Napoleon. No conclusion was arrived at, but at daybreak the following morning Marbois was summoned to read the dispatches from the French minister at London. These indicated that war was imminent and rapidly approaching. After con-

sidering the purport of this intelligence, turning to Marbois, Napoleon said:

I renounce Louisiana. It is not alone New Orleans that we will cede, but the whole colony, without reservation. I know its value and I abandon it with the greatest regret. But to obstinately endeavor to retain it would be the height of folly. I direct you to negotiate this matter at once with the envoy of the United States. Do not wait for the arrival of Mr. Monroe. Have an interview this very day with Mr. Livingston. I shall require a great deal of money for the approaching war, but will be moderate. I want fifty million francs for Louisiana.

Pending the arrival of Mr. Monroe, Livingston, despairing of success and weary of delay, territory of Louisiana was at the disposal of his government. In the negotiations which ensued, the demand of Napoleon's ministers for one hundred million francs as a consideration for Louisiana, was gradually reduced till an agreement was reached, and on April 30, 1803, a treaty was signed by our ministers on behalf of the United States of America, and by Francis Barbe Marbois, the financial minister of France, on the part of that country, by which, in consideration of the payment of fifteen million dollars, the equivalent of eighty million francs, the territory of Louisiana passed to the republic of the United States. The consummation of the treaty was accom-

Wm. Clark

Meriwether Lewis

on April 12th admonished Talleyrand that when Monroe arrived, he intended to advise his government to abandon the negotiations and seize New Orleans by force. On that very day came Mr. Monroe, and on the 13th day of April, while at dinner with a company of friends, the two ministers observed Marbois walking in the embassy garden. On being invited to enter, he stated that he had important information to communicate, but would delay doing so until he could see the representatives of the United States alone. Mr. Livingston sought him out at the first opportunity and was startled upon being informed that the entire panied by no illusions on the part of the signatory parties. On the contrary they were fully aware of its import and tremendous importance. When it had been signed, Livingston, rising from the consultation table, said: "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our lives. From this day the United States takes their place amongst the powers of the first rank; England loses all her exclusive influence in the affairs of America." And Napoleon, showing his full appreciation of the importance of the event, exclaimed: "This accession of territory forever strengthens the power of the United States. I have just given

England a maritime rival that will sooner or later humble her pride."

The patriotic and far-seeing Jefferson lost not a moment's time in securing the ratification of this treaty. As soon as it was received on this side of the Atlantic, he issued a call for a special session of congress. That body assembled on the 17th day of October, 1803, and within a month the treaty was ratified and authority conferred upon the President to take immediate possession of the newly acquired territory. To enable him to do so, he was empowered to employ the army and navy of the United States, and, if in his opinion necessary, he was authorized also to enroll the militia of the several states to the number of eighty thousand men, to enforce and secure our country's right to the ceded territory.

But no opposition was encountered to the surrender of the possession of the great purchase. France herself, on December 17, 1803, first procured its surrender from Spain, and on Tuesday, the 25th day of December, three days thereafter, Governor W. C. C. Claiborne, of Mississippi territory, having been commissioned by the President to assume the provisional government of Louisiana, appeared at the gate of New Orleans, escorted by General Wilkinson, with a small detachment of state militia. The party was greeted by a salute of twenty-one guns from the forts, and entering the city it drew up on the square known as the Place d'Arms. The ceremonies attending the formal presentation of Claiborne's credentials as a commissioner of the United States to accept the surrender of the city of New Orleans and the territory of Louisiana, were soon over. The keys of the city were delivered to him, and Lauscat, the French governor, addressing the people from the portico of the cabildo, in French, congratulated them upon their accession to liberty and absolved them from further allegiance to the sovereigns of France. Claiborne then spoke in English, assuring all present that their rights would be preserved as citizens of the republic of the United States. The fleur de lys, emblem of France, was then slowly lowered, as the stars and stripes, the banner of freedom, slowly arose to catch in the sunshine the freshening breeze from over the waters of the Mississippi. When the flags were both half way, the one descending the other ascending, a gun was fired, and at the signal the cannon on the vessels in the harbor and the batteries of the forts fired a salute, while amidst the cheers of the few Americans present, the territory of Louisiana passed forever into the possession of the United States.

It was a tremendous accession to the territory of the young republic. The very figures that attempt to convey to the mind some idea of its superficial area are themselves impressive. It more than doubled the previous land area of the United States. In round numbers it exceeded 883,000 square miles. Out of it, in addition to the present state of Louisiana, there have been carved Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota, two-thirds of Minnesota, one-third of Colorado, and three-fourths of Wyoming. At the time of its accession to the United States its known population did not exceed five thousand souls, nearly one-half of whom were slaves. In 1810 the first federal census showed a population of twenty thousand, of whom one-half were still negro slaves. If taken to-day, — a census of the same territory would closely approach twenty million, *all free men.*

Considered as a whole, little was really known of the vast territory of Louisiana at the time of its purchase by Jefferson. Although one hundred and twenty years had elapsed since that memorable 9th of April, 1682, when Robert Cavalier de La Salle from a lonely eminence on the delta of the Mississipi had proclaimed the sovereignity of the King of France over his discoveries, no vigorous, persistent effort had been made to explore the vast territory, either by France or by Spain during the two score and five years she had been mistress of Louisiana. Few settlements had been established and aside from the "Chain of Forts" extending in an irregular line from the St. Lawrence to the

Mississippi and on to the bay of Biloxi, Louisiana was an unknown land, except possibly to the fur traders, hunters, trappers, wood rangers, and the indefatigable French priests, who appear to have visited nearly every portion of the territory.

But the sagacious and energetic Jefferson had matured a plan for exploring the Missouri river country, the least known portion of the territory, almost before congress had ratified the treaty under which possession was acquired. In May, 1804, he started the far-famed Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri, charged with the duty of exploring that great river from its mouth to its source and then on to the Pacific ocean. The report which these explorers, after an absence of two years, were able to make of the resources of the country through which they had journeyed, of its lofty mountain chains and plateaus, of its wide, rolling prairies, its forests of valuable timber, its wildernesses, rivers, native inhabitants, and its wild life of forest and plain, served to confirm the vague ideas of the times concerning the new territory as a possession of the United States.

Time, through a thousand channels, has vindicated the wisdom of Jefferson and his ministers in securing at a critical period in our country's history, by the arts of peaceful diplomacy, this great accession of territory to our beloved country.

Bowlder at Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, commemorating the first council with the Indians on Nebraska soil

CHAPTER III

NEBRASKA UP TO 1866

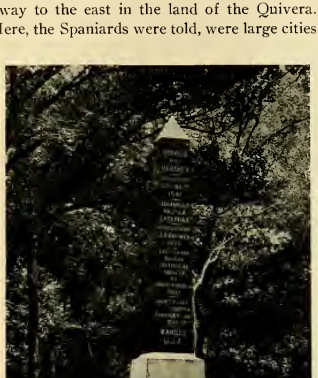
Early Explorers in Nebraska — Coronado — Mallet Brothers — Lewis and Clark — Kansas-Nebraska Bill — Territory opened for Settlement — Area — Boundaries — Organization — Census — Death of Governor Burt — Governor Cuming — The First Legislature — Statehood

The Virgin of the wilderness,
She sits upon her hills alone;
Loose sprigs of cedar in her hair,
A vine-wreath round her zone,—
As grey-eyed Pallas pure and free,
Expectant of the things to be.
— O. C. Dake.

That portion of the "Great Purchase" which comprises the state of Nebraska was scarcely known to white men prior to the expedition of Lewis and Clark in 1804-1806. Doubtless it had been traversed, in part at least, by French-Canadian trappers, traders, and *couriers du bois,* as well as by French missionaries who followed the Indian trails to the remotest regions of all New France. But these left no records of their travels and adventures of which history can take notice. Just when the earliest visits of white men to Nebraska occurred may never be known.

In recent years efforts have been made by writers on the history of our state to connect the expedition of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, in 1540, with Nebraska. It is claimed that this expedition not only crossed the southern boundary of the state somewhere between the eastern boundary of Gage county and points much further west, but also that it actually penetrated the state as far north as the Platte river. The most convincing evidence assigned in support of this contention is that the chroniclers of the expedition, as well as its leader, used descriptive terms, in relation to the soil, vegetation, landscape, and other phenomena observed by them, which might be applicable to southeastern Nebraska, and that Coronado himself declares that Quivera "where I have reached it is *in* the 40th degree." To say the most for such evidence it only indicates in a general way the route of the expedition. It is offset by considerations which are entitled to great weight, even in the face of Coronado's declaration. Coronado came to the New World in the train of Mendoza, viceroy of Mexico, in 1535, and had been assigned by his patron to the governorship of Neuva Galicia, a northern province of the conquered country. Like all ambitious Spainards of that particular day, his imagination had been fired by the wonderful success of Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, and Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru. The fabulous wealth of these vanquished nations had gone to enrich their masters to an extent of which no Spainard had ever before so much as dreamed. Coronado, listening to the tales concerning the far away "Seven City of Cibola," whose wealth was said to rival the riches of Montezuma and the Incas of Peru, resolved to imitate the exploits of Cortez and Pizzaro by undertaking the conquest of these fabled cities of the plain. Obtaining leave from the viceroy, and assembling an army of three hundred Spanish soldiers and a band of warlike Mexican Indians and equipping them for conquest, he started from the capital of his province on the 23d day of February, 1540, animated solely by the hope of plunder. For two years this marauding, predatory ex-

pedition wandered about over the barren wastes of New Mexico and possibly eastern Arizona, reddening their trail with the blood of the simple natives and committing heinous crimes against their chastity and virtue. The "Seven Cities of Cibola" dwindled to a few isolated Zuni villages, while the search for gold, always gold, proved an evanescent dream. Finally it was found that the riches lay far away to the east in the land of the Quivera. Here, the Spaniards were told, were large cities



From photograph owned by E. E. Blackman, vice president Quivera Historical Society.

QUIVERA MONUMENT
Near Junction City, Kansas

with unmeasured treasures of gold and vast herds of buffalo and other game. The rapacious leader gave willing ear to these tales, which no doubt were meant to involve his expedition in ruin, and, turning eastward, he traversed the plains of central Kansas as far as the neighborhood of Junction City, where, recently, enthusiastic Coronadists have erected a costly monument intended to commemorate the discovery of Quivera, a name apparently used to designate a tribe of Indians in that section of country.

Whether Coronado came as far north as Nebraska will never be known. His declaration that he found Quivera within the 40th degree means but little. He was not engaged in exploring the country and could not have been greatly concerned about such things as degrees of latitude. Besides it is a well settled fact that in the sixteenth century a common error of about two degrees runs through all Spanish computations as respects the fixing of degrees of latitude. If correct in the assumption that he did actually cross the fortieth parallel of latitude, then Coronado was the first white man to set foot on Nebraska soil, and Nebraska was known to the Caucasian race within a generation after the death of Columbus and more than eighty years before the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock.

It may be recorded that the first authentic account of the visit of white men to Nebraska is found in the journals of the brothers Pierre and Paul Mallet which fell into the hands of Jean Baptiste Lemoyne, siuer de Bienville, the founder of New Orleans and for many years the French-Canadian governor of the province of Louisiana. In attempting to reach Santa Fe by way of the Mississippi these explorers, with a party of French-Canadians, in 1739 passed up the Missouri, its chief tributary, and appear to have spent the winter at the mouth of the Niobrara. In the spring of 1740 they descended the Missouri to the Platte and, following the latter stream about seventy miles, struck across the plains to Santa Fe, thus traversing a considerable portion of what is now the state of Nebraska.

Whatever may be said concerning those who may have preceded them, it is true beyond cavil that the existence of what is now Nebraska was first brought strongly to public attention by the expedition of Lewis and Clark. These explorers, paddling up the swift and dangerous current of the Missouri river, were compelled to tie their crude vessels to objects along the river banks at night and to proceed only by daylight.

They camped indifferently on either side of the stream. July 15, 1804, their journal shows they first camped on Nebraska soil, at the mouth of the Little Nemaha river, near the present town of Nemaha, and on the way out their last encampment in Nebraska was made September 7, 1804, at a point a few miles below the northeast corner of the state. On their return trip the explorers floated past the northeast corner of the state, on Sunday, the 31st day of August, 1806, and passed the southeast corner on the 11th of the following September — a total of five hundred and fifty-six miles, channel measurement. Several points in Nebraska where the explorers pitched camp have been identified from the minute and accurate description supplied by the record of their movements along the course of the Missouri.

Scattered along the banks of this mighty stream Lewis and Clark found many Indian tribes, amongst them the Otoe and Missouri, which long afterward became domiciled in Gage county. While encamped at Council Bluffs, a point since identified as Fort Calhoun, the explorers made the following entries in their journal:

"The meridian altitude of this day [July 31, 1804]' made the latitude of our Camp 41° 18′ 1.4″. We waited with much anxiety the return of our messenger to the Otoes. Our apprehensions were finally relieved by the arrival of a party of about fourteen Otoe and Missouri Indians, who came at sunset, on the 2d of August, accompanied by a Frenchman who resided among them and interpreted for us. Captain Lewis and Clark went out to meet them and told them we would hold a council in the morning."

The first political event of great significance in the history of Nebraska was the enactment by congress into law of a bill entitled "An act to organize the Territory of Nebraska." As early as 1848 the organization into a territory of that part of the public domain lying west of Missouri and extending to the Rocky mountains had received serious consideration in the halls of our national legislature, and in 1852 a bill for that purpose had been actually introduced in congress. The following year a bill was brought forward for the organization of Nebraska territory, which covered substantially the territory now included in the states of Kansas and Nebraska, extending from the Missouri frontier to the crests of the Rocky mountains. Neither of these measures attracted great public attention or received legislative sanction, but early in January, 1854, Stephen A. Douglas, who was then dominant in national politics, reported from the senate committee on territories, of which he was chairman, a bill to organize the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. This was the historic Kansas-Nebraska bill, the passage of which through congress stirred the nation, north and south, east and west, to its greatest depths and aroused passions destined to be cooled only in the agonies of fratricidal strife. No such public upheaval as followed the introduction of this bill had ever before been known in the United States. The act was drawn with the politician's most consummate art and with a boldness that startled the entire country. There was no effort on the part of the projectors of this measure or any one else to disguise the fact that it repealed the "Missouri Compromise," the most obnoxious measure to the slave-holding class ever passed by the national legislature, and permitted the extension of slavery north of the famed "Mason and Dixon Line." On the other hand, the bill, with the appearance of fairness, permitted the people of each of the proposed territories to determine, as states, whether they should be dedicated to slavery or freedom. Thus by adroitly uniting the Democratic representatives in congress, both north and south, in support of his measure, and having first by substitution divided the original bill into two organic acts, one applying to Kansas and the other to Nebraska alone, Senator Douglas secured the passage of the substitute bills through both houses of congress in May, 1854, and on the 30th day of that month the act creating the territory of Nebraska received the official approval of Franklin Pierce, then President of the United States.

In the interval between the introduction of the bill and its passage, great preparations were on foot in anticipation of the act ultimately becoming a law. On the 17th day of April, in that year, the federal government, by treaty stipulations, acquired the title of the various Indian tribes to all the lands within the boundaries of the proposed territories which bordered upon the western bank of the Missouri river. On the eastern shore of that great stream, during the spring of 1854, people gathered from many states and anxiously awaited final action on the bill and the President's proclamation opening the new territory of Nebraska for settlement. No white man had previously been or was at that time allowed to enter or remain on Nebraska soil without permission from the war department, and then only while engaged in hunting, trapping, or commerce with the Indians. While the act was effecting its passage through congress, the commissioner of the general land office at Washington, after a personal exploration of the eastern boundaries of Nebraska, asserted that there were not three bona fide white settlers in the entire territory. The President's proclamation declaring it open for settlement was issued June 24, 1854, and with the wave of immigration that immediately broke over our eastern boundary, the long, exciting struggle which attended the erection of Nebraska into a territory came to an end.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

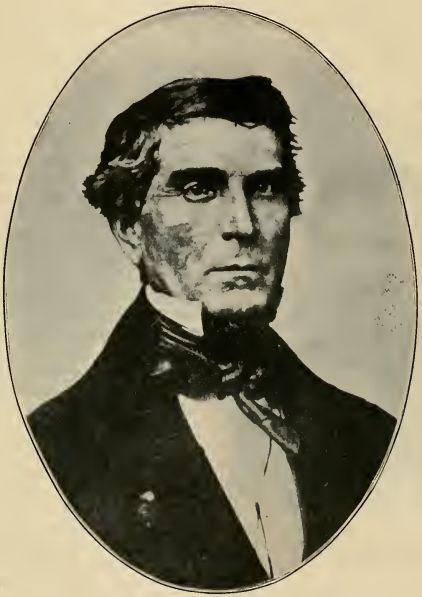
The area of the new territory as defined by the organic act far exceeded its present boundaries. Beginning at a point where the fortieth parallel of latitude crosses the Missouri river, that is to say at what is now the southeastern corner of Richardson county, the southern boundary line of the territory stretched away westward to the eastern boundary of Utah and the summit of the Rocky mountains, thence northward on the principal chain of those mountains to the British possessions, thence eastward on the national boundary line to Minnesota, and southward to the Missouri river, following the main channel of that stream to the point of beginning.

In addition to the present boundaries of our state, this fledgling territory embraced within its borders Montana, North and South Dakota, the northern part of Colorado, a portion of Idaho, and nearly the whole of Wyoming. It comprised a variety of soils, scenery, climate, and products. It was inhabited only by the red man and was the range of the greatest herds of wild buffalo known to mankind, as well as elk, deer, mountain lion, and many other wild and ravenous beasts. It contained vast deposits of coal, mines of precious ores, oil fields of great and unknown value, immense forests, lakes, plains, and rivers with their rich, productive valleys. Doubtless the organic act which conferred upon the new territory such magnificent proportions was passed by congress under the belief that the major portion of the great plains region of the Missouri valley was unfit for human habitation.

But the act provided that congress might, from time to time, as appeared proper or expedient, reduce the area of this territory by creating other territories or parts of territories from it, and it is by virtue of this original pro-

vision that Nebraska has suffered successive diminutions until our present boundaries were finally reached.

The organic act provided for the immediate, complete civic organization of the new territory, and to this end Francis Burt, of North Carolina, was apointed governor, and Thomas B. Cuming, of Iowa, secretary of state for the territory of Nebraska. These two officials arrived at Bellevue, in Sarpy county, October 10, 1854. This small western outpost of civilization had been a station of the American Fur Company since 1804. About 1835, the Presbyterian church had established at this point a mission for the Pawnee, Otoe, and Missouri Indians, and it was the most widely known spot in the territory at that time. It was beautifully located on a rising plateau, near the Missouri river, and for some months it was the prospective capital of the new territory. On his way out to assume the duties of his office, the governor had contracted an illness, and on the 18th day of October, eight days after his arrival, in the old Mission House at Bellevue, at the foot of the hill, "Big Elk," in that remote village, he

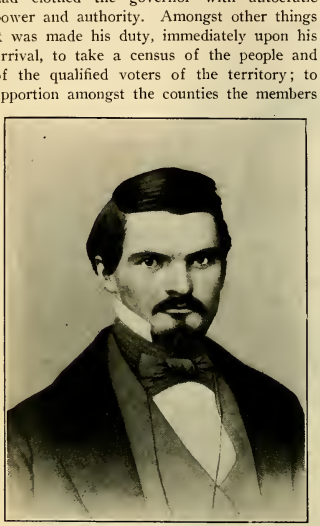


From photograph owned by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

FRANCIS BURT
First governor of Nebraska territory

died, and Cuming succeeded to the office thus made vacant, as acting governor of Nebraska territory.

In matters pertaining to the organization of the territorial government the organic act had clothed the governor with autocratic power and authority. Amongst other things it was made his duty, immediately upon his arrival, to take a census of the people and of the qualified voters of the territory; to apportion amongst the counties the members



THOMAS B. CUMING
First secretary and twice acting governor of Nebraska territory

of the two houses of the legislature, designated by the act as the council and house of representatives; to call an election for members of that body, and select a place for holding its first session. Before his arrival at Bellevue, Governor Burt had marked off the inhabited portions of the territory into counties, and the proclamation of Acting Governor Cuming, issued on the 21st day of November, 1854, calling the first territorial election, included eight counties, namely: Burt, Cass, Dodge, Forney (now Nemaha), Pierce (now Otoe), Richardson, and Washington, — all bordering upon the Missouri river.

The first official act of the acting governor was the issuing of a proclamation containing the announcement of the death of Governor Burt, and dated the day of his demise. Three days thereafter, to wit, October 21, 1854, the acting governor, in order that all absent residents might return to the territory for registration, issued his proclamation announcing that an enumeration of the census would commence on the following Tuesday, namely October 24, 1854. When completed, this census showed the entire population of the new territory to be 2,722. Upon the return of the census enumerators, Governor Cuming apportioned the thirty-nine members of the legislature provided for in the organic act amongst the eight counties already mentioned, and issued a proclamation for their election. On the 20th day of December, 1854, the election having been held, a call was issued convening the "General Assembly of the Territory of Nebraska on the 16th day of January, 1855."

This first legislature, or general assembly, as it was called, was an able and a wonderfully active body. Following the Iowa statutes, from which it borrowed with the utmost freedom, it enacted general laws for the government of the people, adopted codes of civil and criminal procedure, established numerous territorial roads, created and defined the boundaries of nineteen new counties and provided for the establishment of seats of justice therein. It passed laws for the incorporation of insurance, railroad, land, manufacturing, milling, bridge, ferry, banking, colonization, and immigration companies. It incorporated cities, of which many were mere figments of some speculator's brain, their very names having been lost in the efflux of time. It incorporated colleges and seats of learning destined never to have faculty or curriculum, and finally, on the 16th day of March, 1855, it expired amidst a whirlwind of joint resolutions and memorials to congress.

It is foreign to the purpose of this work to

pursue at length the history of the territory of Nebraska. The organic act was passed and approved May 30, 1854, and, as we have seen, it was quickly followed by executive proclamation opening the new territory to settlement. In October, 1854, on the arrival of Governor Burt at Bellevue, there were probably less than two thousand white persons in the entire territory. But the territorial period quickly passed. The national census of 1860 showed a total population of 28,841. In 1870 the census gave the state of Nebraska 123,993. As early as 1864 a movement was inaugurated which had for its object the admission of Nebraska into the Union of States. That year, on the 19th day of April, congress passed "An act to enable the people of Nebraska to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states." After prescribing the boundaries of the proposed state, directing the election of delegates to a constitutional convention to be held for the purpose of framing a state constitution, and fixing the date for holding such convention, the act provided that the constitution of the proposed state, when framed, should be republican and not repugnant to the constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence. The act further provided that such constitution should, by proper articles which should be forever irrevocable without the consent of congress, provided *inter alia* that slavery or involuntary servitude should be forever prohibited in Nebraska, and that perfect tolerance of religious sentiment should be secured, and no inhabitant of the state should ever be molested in person or property on account of his or her mode of religious worship.

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In compliance with this enabling act and pursuant to the directions thereof, an election was held in the territory on the 6th day of June, 1866, for the selection of delegates to the proposed constitutional convention. At the same time, by a sort of referendum, the question of statehood was also submitted to a vote of the people. The election returns showed a clear majority against statehood, and the constitutional convention which assembled in June, in conformity with the enabling act, promptly adjourned without action.

In 1866 the subject of the admission of Nebraska as a state into the Union again challenged public attention. The territorial legislature for that year, on its own motion, submitted a state constitution, prepared under its direction, to the voters of the territory, and at an election held June 2, 1866, this action of the legislature was ratified and the constitution was adopted. Congress, thereupon, under date of February 9, 1867, passed a supplemental enabling act, wherein it was specified, as a condition precedent to statehood, that the legislature of Nebraska must declare that there should never be a denial of the right of suffrage on account of race or color, by the prospective state. This condition was finally accepted, and on March 1, 1867, the territory of Nebraska ceased to be, and the great state of Nebraska came into existence.

CHAPTER IV

GAGE COUNTY

Act Defining Boundaries — Name — Area — Seat of Justice — Whitesville — Preparation for Election — Organization — First Meetings of County Commissioners — County Seat

Among the nineteen counties which were created by the first session of the legislative assembly of Nebraska territory was the county of Gage. This act was entitled "An act to define the boundaries and locate the seat of justice in Gage county." In conferring a name upon the new county it was the aim of the assembly to honor the Rev. William D. Gage, a Methodist clergyman, who was then serving as chaplain for both houses of the legislative assembly.

This act became a law on the 16th day of March, 1855. As defined by the act, the county consisted of a tract of land twenty-four miles square, lying directly west of Pawnee county, which had been likewise created by this session of the legislative assembly and its boundaries prescribed by an act approved March 6, 1855. The second section of the act creating Gage county reads as follows: "William D. Gage, John B. Robinson and I. L. Gibbs be and are hereby appointed commissioners to locate the seat of justice in said county." And by the third section these commissioners or a majority of them were required to meet "at some convenient point (as may be agreed upon) on or before the 10th day of June next, or within three months thereafter, and proceed to locate the seat of justice for said Gage county." By the fourth section of the act the commissioners were required to commit their findings to writing, giving a particular description of the place so selected, and to file the same in the office of the county clerk of Richardson county, who was required to file and keep on file such findings. The place thus designated was declared to be the "seat of justice" for the new county. The act further required the setting aside of "fifty lots of land" in the town so selected to be reserved for the use of such county, the moneys arising from the sale thereof to be by the county judge applied to the erection of a court house and other necessary public buildings.

Prior to the passage of the foregoing act, Acting Governor Cuming had evidently marked out a county, lying west of Richardson, to be known as Jones county. This prospective county began at the northwest corner of Richardson county, as then constituted and which included both the present counties of Pawnee and Richardson, and apparently it was meant to extend thence northward to the Platte river, and along the south side of that stream to the western boundary of the territory, on the crest of the Rocky mountains; following this chain in a southeasterly direction to the south line of the territory and thence back again to the southwest corner of Richardson county and north to the place of beginning.

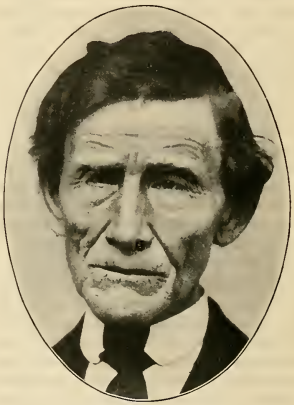
In preparing for the election of members for the first legislature, the governor detailed Jesse Lowe, the deputy United States marshal, to visit the proposed county and ascertain the number of settlers therein. He was instructed to apportion to it one or more representatives, as the number of inhabitants should require, and to arrange for

the holding of an election in such county. Whether the deputy marshal actually visited the prospective county is doubtful, but on the 10th day of December, 1854, he reported to the acting governor that there were no voters in said county, "unless a few living in the neighborhood of Bellews precinct in Richardson county, and who would naturally vote in said precinct." But as we have already seen, within three months from the date of this report, a bill passed both branches of the legislative assembly and became a law, creating the county of Gage, defining its boundaries and providing for the location of a seat of justice in and for said county.

But it takes more than broad acres and legislative enactments to create a body politic. At the time the first territorial legislature sought to immortalize its chaplain, the Rev. William D. Gage, by bestowing his name on that portion of the public domain which it had erected into Gage county, there is not known to have been a single actual settler within its boundaries, and it is doubtful if at that time there was a single white person in the county. It was, in fact, more than two years after the passage of this act before a sufficient number of settlers had gathered in the county to attempt its organization.

No evidence is known to exist which shows that the commission charged with the duty of locating a county seat or "seat of justice" for Gage county ever met or acted under the authority thus conferred upon it. But at the third session of the territorial assembly, begun and held at Omaha, January 5, 1857, an act was passed (and approved February 13, 1857), locating the "seat of justice" of said county at Whitesville. The site thus selected by the assembly as the future county seat of Gage county comprised the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section twenty-nine in Rockford township, located a little south of the present village of Holmesville, two miles east and one-half mile north of the geographical center of the county as originally created. For several years thereafter the stout oak stakes driven into the prairie to mark the corners of lots in Whitesville were plainly visible. Prairie fires finally consumed them and with their destruction all trace of the projected "seat of justice" for Gage county disappeared.

The first territorial assembly, by an act passed and approved March 14, 1855, provided that whenever the citizens of any unorganized county desired to organize the same a majority of the legal voters of the county might make



Rev. William D. Gage
Chaplain of the first legislature

application to the probate judge of the county to which it was attached for election purposes for an order calling an election for county officers in such unorganized county. The act further provided that all unorganized counties should be attached to the nearest organized county to the eastward for election, judicial, and revenue purposes. Under this act, Gage county at the moment of its creation became automatically attached to Pawnee county for the purposes specified in the act, until such date as it had perfected its own organization.

On the 5th day of August, 1857, shortly after the arrival of the company of colonists who founded the city of Beatrice, steps were initiated by them to organize Gage

county, with Beatrice as the county seat, and this without complying with the provisions of the act above mentioned. The townsite enthusiasts appear to have gone through a form of an election of county officers at that time. It is said that thirty-three votes were cast and it seems that a full list of county officials were chosen. At that date there could not have been over fifty white persons within the county of Gage and it is doubtful if there were a dozen voters outside of the Beatrice Townsite Company. The minutes of the county commissioners, or county court, as it was then called, in and for Gage county, begin March 13, 1858, wherein it appears that Albert Towle and H. M. Reynolds acted as county commissioners and Nathan Blakely as county clerk of said county. These minutes are the first county records of any kind in existence, and in a sense they form an unbroken, continuous record of the transactions of the county board of the county from the beginning. The minutes of the first meeting read as follows:

"Commissioners court, held March 13, 1858, at which ordered that a county election should be held on Saturday, March 28th, to relocate the county seat of Gage county; also to elect a sheriff in place of Daniel P. Taylor, who failed to qualify; also to elect a county treasurer in the place of Calvin Miller, who failed to qualify; also to elect a recorder in the place of John Hart, who failed to qualify; also a superintendent of common schools in place of N. B. Beldin, who failed to qualify.

"It was ordered: That the county be divided into two precincts for election purposes; that townships one and two shall be called precinct No. 1, and that townships three and four shall be called precinct No. 2.

"Isma Mumford, John McDowell and Bennett Pike were appointed judges of election in precinct No. 2; Rankin Johnson, James Johnson and Henry Elliott judges of election for pricinct No. 1. The court then adjourned."

The next meeting of the commissioners' court was held at the house of Albert Towle October 7, 1858, and the third meeting was held at the same place November 29, 1858, both designated as regular meetings, with the same officers present as at the first meeting. The next regular meeting of the commissioners' court was held January 3, 1859; present Commissioners Towle and Reynolds and County Clerk Nathan Blakely. And on April 13, 1859, at a special meeting of the commissioners' court, there occurs the following entry:

"At a meeting at a special term of the Co. Court held at the house of A. Towle, on the 13th day of April, 1859, present: Commissioners Albert Towle and H. M. Reynolds. It was ordered and the following preamble and resolutions be adopted:

"WHEREAS, We have been officially informed by the county clerk of Pawnee county that certain individuals residing in precinct No. One of Gage county have petitioned the county commissioners of Pawnee county to issue an order for an election for the purpose of organizing said Gage county, Therefore,

"RESOLVED, That we protest against any such order being issued by the aforesaid commissioners of Pawnee county or any action being taken thereon by the citizens of precinct No. One of Gage county.

"RESOLVED, That we claim that Gage county was regularly organized by an election held on the 3d day of August, 1857; that as evidence of this fact we have the certificate from the county clerk of Pawnee county certifying that the officers elected at the said election were duly elected. And also the fact that the county clerk of said Gage county elected at the said election was duly qualified by the county clerk of Pawnee county.

"In addition to the above the returns of an election held since the above named have been recognized by the board of territorial canvassers as being issued by a regularly organized county.

"It is ordered that the county clerk of Gage county forward a copy of the above preamble and resolutions to the county clerk of Pawnee county. Also send a copy of the same into precinct No. One of Gage county.

"The court then adjourned.

"NATHAN BLAKELY, Co. Clerk."

It is clear from this preamble and these

resolutions that active steps had been taken by the county-seat promoters at Beatrice to validate the election of August 3, 1857. A second election had been held March 27, 1859, for the evident purpose of filling the county offices in all cases where the officials chosen at the first election had failed to qualify. Probably at the second election no action was taken on the county-seat matter, as specified in the commissioners' proceedings under date of March 13, 1858. Blue Springs had become an aspirant for that honor, and as both voting precincts of the county participated in the election of March 27, 1859, a contest at the polls over that question appears to have been avoided.

The location of the county seat and the insistence of Beatrice on the legality of the organization of the county in August, 1857, by the Beatrice Townsite Company had become so acute a subject of difference between the rival towns, that precinct No. 1, Blue Springs, failed to participate in the annual election held August 2, 1858. At the meeting of the commissioners' court under date of July 4, 1859, among other things, it was ordered that Albert Towle, Samuel Jones, and Nathan Blakely be allowed and paid $1.50 each as judges of election at Beatrice, August 2, 1858, and that W. D. Spencer and Myron Newton be allowed and paid a like sum each for acting as clerks of that election, but nothing seems to have been allowed any citizen of Blue Springs or vicinity for acting as a judge or a clerk in precinct No. 1 in this election.

In the spring of 1859, both Blue Springs and Beatrice attempted to assess Gage county, each claiming to have lawful right to perform that service, Blue Springs because of the assumed illegality of the county organization claimed to have been effected by Beatrice in August, 1857, and because of her pending application to the commissioners of Pawnee county for the calling of an election to effect the legal organization of the county; and Beatrice, by virtue of the election in 1857, and her assumption of its regularity. The resolutions of Commissioners Towle and Reynolds above set forth, under date of April 4, 1859, put an end to that movement on the part of Blue Springs, and both precincts of the county participated in the election of 1859. To terminate the dissension that grew out of this rivalry, the legislative assembly, at its session begun and held at Omaha, December 5, 1859, passed an act entitled: "An act to legalize the *first* organization of Gage county, the location of the county seat at Beatrice and the official acts of the officers of said county."

There can be no doubt but that the alleged organization of the county by the Beatrice Townsite Company in August, 1857, was irregular and probably illegal from its inception. There appears to be no evidence that the enthusiastic townsite boomers made the slightest effort to comply with the law then in effect, regulating the organization of counties, and this fact seems to have been recognized by the legislature in passing the above described act.

The passage of this act destroyed forever the hopes of Blue Springs respecting the county seat of the new county. This unpretentious outpost of civilization possessed many advantages which were justly counted in its favor as an aspirant to first place in civic honors. It is a romantic spot, beautifully located on the Big Blue river, and during all the times here mentioned it was a prospective station on a projected cutoff from the old military highway from Fort Leavenworth to the west, which, leaving the main road at Richmond, Nemaha county, Kansas, a few miles below Seneca, on the Nemaha river, led northwest from Blue Springs and beyond, intersecting the main road at some point east and south of the famous Rock Creek Station, in Jefferson county. Blue Springs also was on a main traveled road from Marysville, Kansas, through the Otoe Indian village to Beatrice. It possessed natural advantages for a city which were wanting to some extent in its rival. It was several miles nearer the geographical center of the county than Beatrice, and its few inhabitants were people of worth and character, equal in these respects to the Beatrice colonists. Its most serious drawback was its proximity to the Otoe and Missouri Indian

reservation, the north line of which was only two miles distant.

Beatrice may have been more in line with the direct travel both east and west, and it certainly possessed the controlling advantage of a central location as respected the white inhabitants of the county at that time. In addition to these things, its destiny was in the hands of men who were fully alive to the advantages that would accrue to them by controlling the organization of the county from the very first, and by this and other methods securing at Beatrice the county seat. The changing years have probably vindicated their judgment. With its present boundaries, Beatrice is unquestionably the most desirable location as a seat for the government of our splendid county. The animosities which may have been engendered by the county-seat rivalry of more than a generation ago have long since passed away, and the two historic territorial cities of Gage county, their early dissensions forgotten, for many years have dwelt together in the bonds of unity and friendship.

CHAPTER V

OLD CLAY COUNTY

Act Creating — Organization — Austin — Settlements — Partitioning — John P. Cadman — Joint Meeting Commissioners of Gage and Lancaster Counties

Prior to the passage of the act creating Gage county and defining its boundaries, the first territorial assembly, on the 6th day of March, 1855, passed an act "To define the boundaries and establish the seat of justice for Lancaster county," and on the following day an act was passed creating Clay county and defining its boundaries. Gideon Bennett and James H. Decker, members of the assembly from former Pierce (now Otoe) county, and D. M. Johnson, representative from Richardson county, were appointed by the last named act as legislative commissioners "to locate the seat of justice for Clay county"; and a third section of the act provided "that the seat of justice in and for Clay county shall be called Clatonia." Both of these counties, like Gage, were twenty-four miles square, Clay lying north of Gage and south of Lancaster, but joining each, and consisting of a fine body of land, with an unusual proportion of rich upland prairie.

Clay was duly organized into a county pursuant to the act creating it and defining its boundaries, and entered upon its separate existence as such. No evidence is known to exist to show that any place was ever selected by the legislative commission as a county seat or seat of justice for Clay county. While several towns or villages appear to have been laid out on paper, there was never in fact any semblance of a town in Clay county. The nearest approach to it seems to have been a group of squatters on the public domain about what was known as Austin's mill, on Stevens (now Indian) creek. Here, in 1857, came Hiram W. Parker, Fordyce Roper, Edward C., Charles, and Homer B. Austin, also Orrin Stevens, who gave his name to Indian creek at that point — a name which the Beatrice colonists always refused to recognize. Possibly a few other early settlers gathered near there on the public domain, and an effort was made to establish a town which could become in the course of time a county seat for the new county. Edward C. Austin had located a claim in the latter part of April or early in May, 1857, in the immediate vicinity of the present village of Pickrell. He had built a log cabin, staked out a forty-acre tract of his claim into town lots, and called the proposed town Austin. Shortly thereafter he purchased and brought to his claim a saw mill and buhrs for a grist mill, and erected the former on the east side of Indian or Stevens creek, on the north side of the present road leading east from Pickrell. A little below the mill, on the east side of Indian creek, was the surveyed town of Austin. No dwellings or other structures were ever erected on the townsite and the mill itself proved a financial failure, due in part to the fact that it was not on the line of western bound emigrant travel, and in part to the fact that there was scarcely any demand for lumber in that locality, but more to the fact that a saw mill was established about the same time in Beatrice, by the Beatrice Townsite Company. About the year 1862 the buhrs of Austin's mill were purchased by Mr. Fordyce Roper for use in a mill which he was then erecting in Beatrice. This move broke up the prospective town of Austin and nothing more

was heard of it. The Austins left the country; Parker, Roper, and Stevens moved to Beatrice, and no one was left to take their places in furthering the interests of this forlorn hope.

In addition to the projected town of Austin, there was at least one serious effort to found a town in the north half of Clay county. In that section of the county, John D. Prey and family had established a residence near Roca, July 26, 1856. The following year other settlers joined them, among whom were J. L. Davidson, W. W. Dunham, and I. C. Bristol. A townsite company was formed, composed of John L. Davidson, Joseph B. Weeks, James S. Goodwin, John G. Haskins, and George L. Bristol; a forty-acre tract of land was surveyed into town lots and the prospective town named Olathe. This ambitious project was located on Salt creek, about three-quarters of a mile west of the ford where the road from Nebraska City to Denver crossed that stream, a few yards north of the spot where the present bridge at Roca is located. The Olathe quarries were only a short distance away, there was some wood along the creek, and these appear to have been the determining factors in the location of the town. Nothing came of this venture, and at the time Clay county was divided there was not a single town, village, or hamlet within its bounds.

Clay county as thus constituted was largely a treeless scope of country, rather poorly watered, especially on the upland, and it was generally thought that there was no desirable central location for a county seat in the county. Its big, rolling, unbroken prairies did not look inviting to men who were wholly dependent for so important a matter as fuel upon timber along the streams. The settlements had been confined to those localities where timber could be had. In addition to the settlement in the neighborhood of Austin's mill, others were made in 1857, in Adams township, along the Big Nemaha river at several points in the north half of Clay county, along Salt creek and its tributaries, and a few squatters on the public domain might have been found in the southwest corner of the county, along the Big Blue river.

The maintenance of county government in a county whose population was so sparse and so widely separated, would, it was thought, be an expensive and difficult problem under any circumstances, and the early settlers of the county, realizing the situation, were for the most part readily persuaded to embrace a scheme for the division of their county. This movement was started in 1863. John P. Cadman, residing near the village of Lancaster, in the neighborhood known as Yankee Hill, where the present Asylum for the Insane, at Lincoln, is located, was that year elected the representative of Gage, Clay, and Lancaster counties in the territorial legislature. He is said to have carried with him a petition signed by a majority of the legal voters of Clay county praying the legislature to divide that county and attach the north half to Lancaster and the south half to Gage county. Whether this is true or not, a bill was brought forward early in the session of the assembly, which convened at Omaha, January 7, 1864, to effect such division and distribution of old Clay county. Some opposition developed at first to this measure in the legislative body, headed by Mr. John S. Gregory, a colleague of Cadman's. But the obvious advantages of this important measure to all three counties were such that Gregory was finally induced to lend his influence to the act.

The bill, which passed the assembly on the 15th day of February, 1864, was carefully and skilfully drawn by the late P. M. Marquette. It was entitled "An act to attach the north half of Clay county to the county of Lancaster and the south half of Clay county to the county of Gage." It covered every possible contingency that might arise from the proposed division. It declared the organization of the county of Clay to be forever at an end, and constituted the board of county commissioners of Lancaster and Gage counties "A board to meet at such time and place as they might agree upon for the purpose of effecting the division of Clay county

pursuant to the provisions of this act." In compliance with the terms of the act, the commissioners of Gage county on July 26, 1864, held a joint session with the commissioners of Lancaster county, represented by John W. Prey, at the home of Hiram W. Parker, the county clerk of Clay county, in Beatrice, for the purpose of effecting a settlement of the affairs of that county. The preliminary entry on the journal of the records of the county commissioners of Gage county as respects this meeting reads as follows:

"County Court, July 26, 1864. Commissioners of Lancaster and Gage.

"At a meeting of the county commissioners of the counties of Gage and Lancaster, held at the house of H. W. Parker, for the purpose of receiving the accounts, books, monies, and all and any other property belonging to Clay county, and for the purpose of a settlement of the accounts to and with the officers of the aforesaid county of Clay.

"There were present county commissioners from Gage county, Fordyce Roper, F. H. Dobbs and William Tyler. From the county of Lancaster, John W. Prey."

As illustrative of the meager volume of business transacted by a county in that early day, as well perhaps as the poverty and simplicity of the times, the remainder of the record of the meeting mentioned in the preceding paragraph may not be without interest to the reader or regarded as inappropriate to this history. It reads as follows:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ordered 1st.—That the account of H. W. Parker be allowed for services as county clerk (Clay County) from April 4, 1864 to July 28, 1864, 3½ months at $4.25 per month, $15.00. And that the Clerk of Clay County draw a warrant on the county treasurer for the same.

Ordered 2nd. — That John W. Prey be allowed $11.00, his per cent. for collecting Co. revenue and that the Co. clerk of Clay County draw warrant on the Co. treasurer for the same.

3rd. — That the clerk of Clay County draw warrants on the Co. treasurer for John W. Prey for $25.80, said amount having been paid out by him for non-assessed sinking fund for the year 1861.

4th. — By an examination of the Clay County record, the total amount of indebtedness was found to be $211.95.

5th. — The assessed valuation of property in the south half of Clay County for the year 1864 is $13,482.00.

6th. — The assessed valuation of property in the north half of Clay County for the year 1864 is $22,647.82.

7th. — The total amount of indebtedness to be paid by the north half of Clay County according to apportionment is $185.70.

8th. — The total amount of indebtedness to be paid by the south half of Clay County is $110.75.

Ordered 9th. — That the county treasurer of Clay County pay over all monies in his hands to their respective funds.

Ordered 10th. — That all offices in Clay County be declared vacant from this date, except precinct officers.

(Signed)
Oliver Townsend,
Co. Clerk for Gage Co.

F. Roper,
F. H. Dobbs,
William Tyler.
John W. Prey.

The reader has now looked upon the closing scene of old Clay county. Seldom have the obsequies of so important an organization as a splendid county been attended with greater simplicity or with less bitterness and dissension. It is easy to read between the lines of the act of dissolution the paramount influence of the rising city on the south and the ambitious village of Lancaster on the north, so soon to lose its identity in the noblest monument that has yet been reared to the martyr-president, the heroic Abraham Lincoln. Lapse of time has proved that the few heroic spirits of Stevens creek, Pierce, Bear, the Nemaha and Salt, would have been more than justified in persisting to the last in maintaining the separate existence of their county. The traveler who now motors over northern Gage and southern Lancaster counties is charmed with the beauty of the landscape and the fertility of the soil. Where once only a few souls gathered in isolation and loneliness along the widely separated streams within these

boundaries, he finds a contented, prosperous, and happy population numbering many thousands. Where once stretched the silent and, to many, desolate prairies, he beholds widespreading fields, meadows and pasture lands, groves and orchards; he finds also commodious and not infrequently elegant country homes. No finer upland site for an ambitious county-seat town can be anywhere found in the west than that occupied by the present village of Cortland, near the geographical center of ancient Clay county. Within the former boundaries of this old county are several other pretty, attractive, and thriving villages, and what was Clay county in the primitive days has evolved into a district supplied with railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, schools, churches, banks, magnificent highways, and other institutions and conveniences by which modern living is both embellished and exalted.

CHAPTER VI

TOPOGRAPHY OF GAGE COUNTY

LOCATION — TOWNSHIPS — AREA — HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES — STONE — CLAY — COAL — WATER SUPPLY — CLIMATE — TEMPERATURE — SOIL — THE PRAIRIES

The county of Gage is located in the southern part of the state of Nebraska, its eastern boundary being approximately fifty miles west of the Missouri river. On the north it is bounded by Lancaster county, on the east by Johnson and Pawnee counties, on the south by the state of Kansas, and on the west by Jefferson and Saline counties. It is a rectangular body of land, thirty-six miles in length north and south and twenty-four miles in breadth from east to west. As originally created by the territorial assembly, in 1855, it was twenty-four miles square, but as the reader will remember, in 1864, Clay county, which was also twenty-four miles square, was divided by the territorial assembly, the south half being attached to Gage and the north half to Lancaster county, thus giving to both Gage and Lancaster their present dimensions. The county is composed of twenty-four government townships, which, under article 9 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska, are each independent corporations — like counties as relates to their own internal affairs. In 1885 the county government was changed from the commissioner system to township organization, and when such change is made, boards of supervisors are required by law to select names for the various townships under their jurisdiction, by which they shall thereafter be designated. Pursuant to this provision of the law, the various townships of Gage county, beginning with the northeast, are named as follows: Adams, Nemaha, Highland, Clatonia, Grant, Holt, Hanover, Hooker, Filley, Logan, Midland, Blakely, Lincoln, Riverside, Rockford, Sherman, Blue Springs, Island Grove, Wymore, Sicily, Elm, Glenwood, Paddock, Barneston, Liberty. With the exception of Blue Springs and Wymore all these townships are approximately six miles square. Originally Blue Springs comprised a full government township, but in 1889, for the purposes of local government, it was divided, on an east and west line through the center, into two townships. The south half was named Wymore, and in the same is situated the city of that name; the north half retained the name of Blue Springs and within its limits is the little city of the same name. It is through this division of the original township of Blue Springs that Gage county now has twenty-five townships.

The county has a superficial area of nearly 864 square miles, — approximately 552,960 acres. It has an average elevation above sea level of 1,200 feet. Its surface configuration may be described as a plain, tipped toward the southeast, — a construction which is only slightly modified locally by erosion and the direction of water courses. When it is considered that the two principal drainage systems of the county flow from the northwest in an almost due southeasterly direction, it becomes evident even to casual observation that the general surface trend also follows that course.

The hydrographic features of the county are very marked and readily traced. The Big Nemaha river enters it from the northwest, near the half-section line running north and south through Section 2, in Nemaha town-

ship, and, flowing in an almost due southeast direction across Adams township to the southeast corner of Section 36 in that township, it crosses the county line into Johnson county. With its tributary streams, it drains a large portion of Nemaha, Adams, and Hooker townships. At Sterling it receives the waters of Hooker creek, and at Tecumseh those of Yankee creek, both of considerable volume and with headwaters partly in Gage county. At Tecumseh the Nemaha has a volume of water sufficient for milling purposes if properly conserved, and for many years it was the site of a good grist and flouring mill, deriving its power wholly from the river. It crosses the Pawnee county line into Richardson county a few miles east of Tablerock, receives at Salem the waters of its South Fork from Kansas, and falls into the Missouri river at the southeast corner of Richardson county, discharging into the Missouri a considerable volume of water.

But by far the most important element in the natural drainage of Gage county is the Big Blue river. This beautiful stream also enters the county from the northwest, in Section 19, Grant township, and, taking a southeasterly course, it flows across Grant, Blakely, Midland, Riverside, Rockford, Blue Springs, and Barneston townships, crossing the state line into Kansas at a point in Section 35 in Barneston township, approximately twenty-eight miles south and seventeen miles east of the initial point. From the west it receives the waters of Swan creek at a point two and one-half miles south of DeWitt, Cub creek near Hoag, Bills creek at Blue Springs, and Big Indian creek at Wymore, with their numerous tributaries. From the north and east its waters are augmented by those of Clatonia, Soap, Smake, Indian, Bear, Cedar, Mud, Wolf, Plum, and Mission creeks with their tributaries, most of which are living streams, a number carrying considerable quantities of water. Power for all purposes is supplied by the river itself, and its value and usefulness in this respect become increasingly important with every decade. From Barneston the river flows almost due south, through Kansas, receiving the waters of the Little Blue river and other streams on its course, and, greatly augmented in volume and force, it falls into the Republican at Manhattan, Kansas. It is one of the most beautiful and interesting of all Nebraska rivers, and from source to mouth it is approximately three hundred miles in length, — channel measurement.

The drainage of the county is fully matured. From every portion of it the water is led at once by natural depressions, streams and water courses away from the land. So nearly perfect is the drainage that in case of excessive rainfall the surface water is immediately conducted into runs, creeks, and streams, and these may become swollen, overflow their banks and flood the valley and low lands, sometimes washing away the soil, destroying fences, bridges, and other structures, and often doing great damage to crops on the bottoms and sloping uplands. Damages from this source could be greatly mitigated if the farmers and other interested parties would avail themselves of the recent drainage legislation of our state, form drainage districts, if necessary issue bonds, and, by ditching, straighten the channels of the streams so as to facilitate the rapid discharge of their waters and prevent overflow. This has been done in Pawnee, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Richardson, and probably other counties of the state, to the very great profit of the sections concerned.

Both the Nemaha and the Big Blue rivers, and particularly the latter, are noted for their wide and fertile valleys. Many of their tributaries also present in a marked degree valley formation. Usually the valleys on either hand are bounded by ranges of low hills, beyond which are the uplands, — formerly prairies.

From the time white men first became familiar with southeastern Nebraska, the streams of our county were bordered by lines of timber, which under favorable circumstances often spread out over the lower bottom lands into groves of valuable oak, walnut, hickory, ash, elm, hackberry, cottonwood, willow, and other deciduous varieties of trees common to this latitude. On some of the streams the red cedar is occasionally found. From these natural

sources the early settlers of our county obtained wood for fuel and lumber, logs and clapboards for building purposes, fencing and other requirements of rural husbandry. Cultivation of the land, by keeping down disastrous prairie fires and by affording strong protection to the native timber growths, has largely contributed to the spread of timbered areas. In later times the use of coal and other fuels, and of foreign lumber, by relieving the demand upon the native woods has likewise greatly augmented the natural resources of the country, so that at the present moment our timbered areas exceed by many thousand acres the natural forest resources of the county as known to the pioneers. In addition to these factors tree planting in recent years has given Gage county largely the appearance of a timbered country.

There are no mountains and no hills of unusual size or altitude in Gage county. Its most noted elevation is a round-topped hill on the eastern boundary of Riverside township, a few miles southeast of Beatrice, locally known as "Iron Mountain." Speaking generally, the configuration of the surface of the county is such that a traveler is everywhere met with a panorama of low hills, gentle slopes, short plains, and shallow ravines, all pleasingly diversified by stream and wood.

In may portions of the county a fair quality of building stone is found, and in the neighborhood of Blue Springs and Wymore are extensive quarries of conglomerate rock, which for several years have afforded an ample supply of materials for the important rock-crushing industries at those points, the products being shipped in quantities over the state and elsewhere. Sand and gravel of exceptional quality are also valuable natural products of this county, as well as clay, both common and vitreous.

Coal has not yet been discovered in paying quantities anywhere in the state of Nebraska. As far back as 1868, Prof. F. V. Hayden, then at the head of the National Geological Survey, in an address delivered to the citizens of Beatrice in the old frame school house, cautioned his audience against entertaining any hope of finding coal in Gage county in workable quantities; and in his report to the secretary of the interior at Washington in 1872, after a thorough study and survey of the resources of the state of Nebraska, says: "In regard to finding workable beds of coal within accessable depths in eastern Nebraska by deep boring, I would remark in conclusion that though not prepared to discourage all hope of success, it is proper to state that all the known facts are unfavorable."

The intervening years have only served to prove the wisdom and correctness of this eminent scientist's conclusion. Twice in Gage county deep borings have been made for coal, oil, and natural gas. The first effort was about 1875, when a boring eleven hundred feet deep was put down across the alley on the Robertson property just north of the old jail, in Beatrice, with no other result than to develop a strong flow of salt water which rose to the top of the ground with nearly artesian force. Quite recently another boring was put down, on the Farlow tract of land which now is incorporated in the golf links and Country Club grounds. A depth of six hundred feet was reached, where salt water was again found. Within a few months from this date several tracts of land in the eastern part of our county have been covered with oil, coal, and natural-gas leases. No borings have yet been made, and nothing has transpired since 1868 to discredit the cautionary remarks of Prof. F. V. Hayden.

The county is well supplied with water other than that afforded by streams. Numerous excellent springs are found in many localities. At Barneston, within a stone's throw of the old Agency building, is a splendid spring which during the Indian occupation gushed out of the ancient prairie. For many years it supplied the entire Otoe and Missouri tribes of Indians, as well as the white population at the agency, with pure, wholesome water for drinking and all domestic purposes. It has been allowed to fall into disuse and is now so filled with washings from the land and with other debris that is is a mere bog, — so much an object of danger to stock

that the owner of the land where it is located keeps a fence around it. With proper development this spring is capable of supplying a city of many thousands with an abundance of the purest water, at small expense. At Blue Springs there is a succession of beautiful springs gushing from under steep embankments and forming a little stream which is called Spring creek and which debouches a few rods away into the Big Blue river. Here is an unknown quantity but certainly an abundant supply of excellent water, capable of meeting the demand of a large city. These natural water resources, besides giving a name to the beautiful city of Blue Springs, have been sufficiently developed to meet the demands of both Blue Springs and Wymore. Beatrice, as is well known, draws her entire municipal water supply for her 12,000 population, amounting to over 1,000,000 gallons a day, from what is known as Zimmerman Springs, a few miles northwest of the city, — a supply which under scientific analysis has been found to be almost chemically pure. There are other localities throughout the county where spring water of excellent quality and great purity can be obtained at comparatively small cost. Well water of great volume and purity is obtainable in every part of the county, at depths varying from a few feet in the Blue river bottom lands to much greater depths in the upland regions. There are no natural lakes in the county and no large bodies of water formed by the streams.

The climate of Gage county is moderately humid, mild and invigorating. The normal monthly temperature ranges from an average of thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit in January to seventy-six degrees in July. Nowhere in the upper Mississippi valley are the climatic conditions more equable or more conducive to healthy living for man and beast. Here one experiences in the greatest perfection the grand procession of the seasons, spring, summer, autumn, winter. The rainfall averages about thirty inches per annum and is well distributed throughout the period of plant growth, as a rule assuring abundant harvests, bountiful crops. All Nebraska, however, is in the region of occasional extremes of temperature caused by excessive drought. Once in each decade, sometimes oftener, crops may partly fail from this cause or from hot, dry southwesterly winds. The winters are sometimes severe, and other eccentricities of climate common to Nebraska and neighboring states may, and do in fact, manifest themselves in some degree in Gage county. But, all things considered, it would be difficult to find in this latitude of the entire country a more healthful or a more attractive climate.

In the early days fluctuations of temperature were more frequent and more marked than now, and the pioneers often suffered severely both from the rigors of winter and the heat and drought of summer. Fearful storms not infrequently swept over the treeless prairies, endangering the lives of man and beast, both in winter and summer. With the settlement of the country, the cessation of prairie fires, the planting of groves, orchards, and hedgerows, together with many other agencies incident to a large and progressive community, tending to ameliorate the hard conditions of pioneer life, the sudden and frequent changes of temperature to which all the northwest is subject summer and winter, have come to be regarded here with great indifference.

The soils of the county, as of nearly all eastern Nebraska, are mature and fertile. They contain the essential elements necessary to the growth and production of the fruits, grasses, and grains common to north temperature regions, and as a rule, up to the present moment, they respond bountifully to the labors of the husbandman without artificial fertilization or other expensive upkeep.

Soil may be defined as a mixture of fine earthy materials with organic matter produced by the decomposition of vegetation on the earth's surface,— as the stems, roots, and leaves of trees, grasses, and other forms of vegetation. The earthy materials which enter into soil formation are the outer portions of the earth's crust, which, by a process described as weathering, or by glacial action or other

drastic force, become decomposed into fine stone, gravel, minerals, clay, sand, and silt. Types of soils are determined by the relative proportions of these materials, organic and inorganic, which by inspection or chemical analysis are found to enter into their composition.

On the basis of their origin, the soils of Gage county may be roughly classed as residual, alluvial, glacial drift, and loessial deposits. Residual soils are formed from the decomposition of limestone and possibly some other kinds of rock by a process scientifically known as leaching, in which the soluble portions of the decomposed mass disappear, and the insoluble or less soluble remain in the place where decomposition or leaching has occurred, as a sort of subsoil, and by the addition of vegetable or organic mold may mature into rich, fertile soil.

Alluvial soils are formed from sedimentary deposits arising from the overflow of streams, carrying in suspension soils and soil materials from a higher to a lower elevation. The vegetable matter such soils contain often renders them the richest and most fruitful known to man. The valleys of the Nile, the Mississippi, the upper Ganges, the Hoang-Ho, the Po, and the Danube, afford fine examples of the strength and wonderful fertility of this kind of soil.

Glacial soils are derived from those deposits which are mainly the product of glacial action, exerted through long ages in the formative period of the earth, though their immediate deposition may have been caused in part by the action of wind and water. Such soils are found as far south as the southern boundary of the great ice cap, which in the glacial or ice age covered to enormous depths the north temperate regions of the world. Soils derived from this source are scientifically described as *drift*.

Loessial soil is a loessial deposit, very homogeneous in character and rarely stratified. It usually contains large quantities of land and fresh water shells as well as the bones of extinct animals. In regions where the loess occurs it is the most recent of the soil formations. It is regarded as the sedimentary bottoms of ancient fresh-water seas and lakes. Its presence is often attributed to fierce winds which in primordial times carried the fine loamy silt to distant areas and spread it out, often in great thickness. This imperial soil, according to Professor Samuel Aughey, who was the first to occupy the position of geologist at the State University of Nebraska, veneers almost the entire glacial drift of the state. It forms the Missouri river bluffs and is thickest there, gradually thinning towards the west. A recent soil survey of Gage county showed the loess to be extensively present in various areas, principally however on the uplands. It is said to be the thickest and in the highest state of preservation about Cortland. In common parlance it is spoken of as loam, modified by descriptive terms, as black loam, sandy loam, clay loam, and the like.

To the wondering view of the early inhabitants of this section of Nebraska the object of the most striking and universal interest was the rolling prairies. Extending from the Canadian boundary on the north to the tropical gulf of Mexico on the south, and from the timbered shore of the Missouri river on the east to the foothills of the Rocky mountains on the west, its apparently illimitable expanse presented great variety of surface configuration. In its virgin state it was a source of never-ending curiosity and interest. Thickly clothed with verdure, diversified by stream and wood, and shimmering in the brilliant sunshine, the prairies of eastern Nebraska were probably the most beautiful landscape on the face of the earth. At frequent intervals were found rivers and living streams of pure water, and the dark foliage of the forest trees skirting them presented a pleasing contrast to the lighter green of the prairies. Such was the fascination which they exerted over the human mind that the first settlers were prone to wander from one high place to another to feast their eyes upon the beautiful panorama which the prairies offered.

The origin of the prairies is involved in some doubt. Even scientific men of character and great learning are not fully agreed upon this

important subject. The most plausible theory which seeks to account for the presence of the great level prairies is that they were the sites of ancient shallow lakes, which gradually filled with silt washed down from the Rocky mountains, six hundred miles away, and from other sources, — first becoming marshes, which with the accumulations of vegetable matter ultimately became the high level prairies. The rolling prairies are said to bear evidence to the rush and the recoil of the fresh-water seas that followed the melting of the great ice cap, while the ravines, the hills, and the valleys were formed by the washing away of large portions of the surface in the process of continental draining.

CHAPTER VII

FLORA AND FAUNA

Grasses — Flowers — Forest and Stream — Animal Life — The Buffalo — Elk — Antelope — Native Birds — Fish — Insect Life — Grasshoppers — Effect of Settlement

The native flora of our county, like all the southeastern portion of Nebraska, was characterized by many forms of plant life. The most casual observer could readily divide it into the flora of the prairies and the flora of forest and stream. The prairies were clothed with many varieties of grass as well as of plants, some of which were perennial and in their florescence beautiful. The early settlers found bottom land along the streams and other depressions stocked with the blue-stem grass, the uplands with bunch grass and other species of succulent grasses, all of which however ultimately yielded to the blue-stem as the country became settled, the uplands pastured, and the ravages of fire diminished, — eastern Nebraska thus became clothed with this the most desirable of all our native forage plants. This process was rapid in Gage county, so much so that within ten years after the first settlements were made the blue-stem could be cut for hay anywhere on the prairies. Mingled with the grasses, which spread a beautiful carpet of verdure over the earth's surface, were hundreds of flowering plants whose diversity of size, color, and perfume contributed to the beauty and interest of the primitive landscape. The graceful wild rose, representatives of the lily family, buttercups, violets, mallows, primroses, goldenrods, asters, verbenas, morning-glories, and many other well known flowering species bloomed forth over the prairies in their season,— a profusion of delicate colors. In almost no other way have settlement and cultivation wrought such radical changes as in the plant life of the prairies.

The flora of the forest and stream needs but a word. Unlike that of the prairies, which was native in its origin, the larger forms of vegetation in this portion of Nebraska are wholly due to migration. In the southern part of the state the source of forest growth is readily assignable to the nearby forests along the Missouri river. The distribution of tree, vine, and shrub seeds, of all common forests growths in this latitude, has been greatly facilitated by wind, by flood, by beak and wing, a process which has gone on from primordial times to the present moment. Shut off from germination, by the fine, compact soils of the prairies, such seeds, when transported from near by or from distant forests, have found lodgment and favorable conditions of growth in the rich alluvial soils of the streams, thus giving rise to our forests of oak, hickory, elm, hackberry, sycamore, maple, box elder, red bud, locust, willow, cottonwood, and all the other varieties of timber growth that go to make up our groves and forests. Amongst the shrubs are the plum, chokecherry, hazel nut, prickly ash, wahoo bush, red willow, gooseberry, wintergreen, and some other varieties. Of plants and vines the most beautiful and important are the strawberry, the blackberry, raspberry, several varieties of wild grape, bitter-sweet, Virginia creeper, sarsaparilla, and other climbing vines.

The hand of man has greatly modified the pleasing aspect which nature wore here in her primitive state, and has added greatly to the

stock of forest trees and forest growths by the art and skill of arboriculture, while by excluding fire and other destructive agencies it has greatly increased both the quality of our growing timber and the acreage of our forests.

The animal life of southeastern Nebraska when the white man came was varied and interesting. Nearly every form of wild life common to this latitude, whether of earth, air, or water, was represented here, and, in addition, forms which are associated mainly with wide reaches of open prairies. In vast herds, aggregating many millions, here roamed the shaggy buffalo, while the shy and lordly elk in great bands fed upon the natural meadows. Both species of the American deer were native here, and droves of beautiful antelope roamed the plains. Not long before the advent of the white man, our plains were probably also the range of the caribou, the moose, and the mountain sheep. The wild fox, the sly coyote, and his large relation, the mountain or gray wolf, the lynx, the panther, the bear, the mountain lion, and other representatives of the carnivorous tribe were all at some time no doubt native to our eastern Nebraska. The rodents were widely distributed in forest and plain; they were the mole, the wood mouse, the ground gopher or ground squirrel, the pocket gopher, the common tree squirrel, the badger, the ground hog, while acres upon acres were included in the villages of the prairie dog. The strictly fur-bearing animals were well represented by the beaver, the otter, the mink, the muskrat, the raccoon, and the skunk. Frogs, toads, and other batracians inhabited the streams and marsh lands, while numerous varieties of snakes, the prairie rattlesnake, the common bull snake, the water moccasin, the puffing adder, and other forms of reptilian life abounded on the prairies and about the woods and streams.

Bird life was in evidence on every hand. The largest species were the wild turkey, goose, brant, crane, duck, and turkey buzzard; The medium-sized species were the long-billed curlew in vast flocks, the golden plover, the sand piper, several species of hawks, owls, and crows; the smaller birds and the singers, amongst others, included swallows, wrens, yellow hammers, chickadees, peewees, blue-jays, meadow larks, thrush, bluebird, blackbird, and many other prairie, bush, meadow, and grass species of song and plumage birds. The game and food birds aside from water fowl were wild turkeys in occasional flocks, the quail, and millions upon millions of grouse, or prairie chickens as they were commonly called.

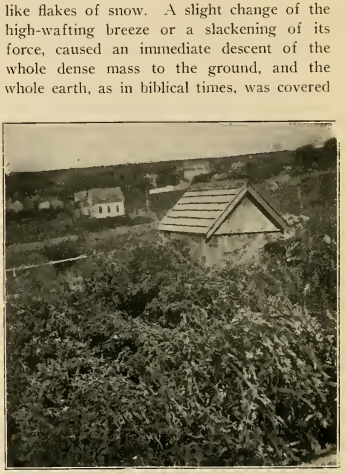
The clear waters of the creeks and rivers were well stocked with all varieties of fish common to this portion of North America. In the smaller streams and in the deep holes in large ravines which were fed in part by springs, were found bullheads, perch, chubs, cat, red-horse, and sunfish. In the rivers and larger streams were the buffalo, pike, pickerel, gar-pike, suckers, croppies, and cat fish. In Gage county in the early days as at the present time, the Big Blue river was the one reliable source of the fish supply. In this respect it was a very notable stream, as fish abounded in it and were easily taken, and before the wash from cultivated lands had changed their character its waters were clear, sparkling, beautiful as a mountain stream — in deep places as blue as the overhanging sky. A river moss, wherever a stony formation supplied points of attachment, spread out over the bottom of the stream, sometimes from shore to shore and several inches thick, covering large areas of the channel, its individual streamers often being many feet in length and all thickly leaved. The swift water imparted a wavy motion to its mass, and its gentle rising and falling was often accelerated by large buffalo fish and other species preying upon the periwinkle, crawfish, and other small acquatic life found attached to the green moving masses of moss.

Insect life, the most numerous and varied of all forms of life, has always abounded in every portion of Nebraska. Flies, gnats, mosquitos, wasps, hornets, vari-colored butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, cycads, beetles, miriapods, crickets, spiders, bees, locusts, caterpillars, ants, and every other creeping

and crawling thing native to the north temperate zone finds a natural habitat in eastern Nebraska. Of these native insects the most destructive species are the chinch bug, the army worm, the Hessian fly, the Colorado potato-beetle, and the codling moth. At varying periods of time, under favorable circumstances, great injury has been done to growing field crops by many of these insects, as well as to orchards and gardens.

But the insect that has caused the greatest and most widespread disaster to crops and vegetation in our county, as well as to the state at large and neighboring states, is the Rocky Mountain locust or grasshopper — a migratory insect, native to the high, dry plateaus of New Mexico and Arizona, the eastern foothills of the Rocky mountains, and the plains of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. Nothing in the natural history of the west has excited such widespread interest as the great locust plagues to which the early settlers of our state were frequently subjected and which may again become a menace to our prosperity. Unlike Pharaoh's locusts that came on an east wind, these usually came on a northwest wind, but like them "they covered the face of the whole earth so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees — and there remained not any green thing in the trees or the herbs of the field in all the land of Egypt." [Ex. 8, v. 15.]

It is not known when these pests first appeared in Nebraska. Probably before the coming of the white man they may have been here as a mere incident to wild nature. The first actual visitation known to history occurred in 1857, when they are described by the Brownville *Advertiser* as "mowing the prairies." No less than seven invasions are known to have occurred in southeastern Nebraska before the last, in 1874. They were much alike. In a few instances the corn crop was far enough advanced to escape total destruction, but in the great invasion of 1874 not a green thing escaped. The leaves on the trees, prairie grass, and herbage of every description were practically laid waste. The first intimation of disaster would be a few rapidly dropping hoppers out of the sky, mere avant couriers of the myriads of destroying locusts. The observer, glancing toward the sun, beheld the air to a depth of half a mile or more thick with the flying insects, moving with the wind and glittering in the sunshine like flakes of snow. A slight change of the high-wafting breeze or a slackening of its force, caused an immediate descent of the whole dense mass to the ground, and the whole earth, as in biblical times, was covered



GRASSHOPPER SCENE, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, 1874

by hopping, flying, creeping, climbing, crawling locusts, and every edible thing perished.

Here in Gage county up to July 16, 1874, crops of every description had never held greater promise. Fall wheat and oats were already harvested, or well matured, but on that day a devastating hot wind swept up from the southwest and the corn crop was blasted in a few hours. The grasshopper invasion which followed in the early part of August left the fields practically bare. All Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Nevada, Colorado, Texas, and the territories of Wyoming, Dakota, and Idaho were involved in the disaster. In most of this territory the crops,

gardens, and orchards were in flourishing condition; everything was swept away. This invasion marks an era in the history of the states affected and in the lives of all their inhabitants, a never to be forgotten circumstance. It was the same story everywhere — destruction on a tremendous scale. It was the most startling plague of locusts of which we have any account outside of the Bible. Combined with the drought, this scourge was the cause of great destitution in Nebraska. On the 8th day of September, 1874, Governor Robert W. Furnas, by proclamation, appointed twenty prominent Nebraskans as a relief commission to receive and distribute all contributions of money and clothing in aid of those who had been, through no fault of their own, practically reduced to beggary. These gentlemen formed a corporation known in our history as the Nebraska Relief and Aid Society. This society proceeded to organize the work throughout the state. It was estimated in January, 1874, that more than ten thousand people of our commonwealth were in need of aid. In the frontier counties the suffering was acute and often pitiful, but a great many benevolent persons interested themselves in the cause of relief and much was done by private charity to mitigate the poverty and want of the times.

By January 8, 1875, the society was able to report the receipt from various sources of $37,279.73 in money and nearly an equal amount in clothing. Early in 1875 congress appropriated thirty thousand dollars in money to be used in the purchase of food supplies and five times that amount for the purchase of clothing, its beneficences to be distributed to the people of the several states who were sufferers from the grasshopper scourge of 1874. A part of these funds came of course to our state. By far the most practical and noteworthy act within our borders was the passage of a law by the legislature, under date of February 17, 1875, providing for the issuing of state bonds, to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, "For the purpose of providing seed for the citizens of counties devastated by grasshoppers during the year 1874." Most of the counties in the state, including Gage, were beneficiaries of these relief measures, and by these various means thousands of homesteaders were held upon their claims and the state was spared wholesale depopulation in many counties.

Great alarm existed during the winter of 1874-1875, as well as the following spring and early summer, on account of the billions and billions of grasshopper eggs that had been deposited in the ground the previous autumn. The exact facts of the case with respect to the deposition of grasshopper eggs staggers belief. Scarcely an inch of land or a clod of dirt but contained several nests of grasshopper eggs, closely packed in a sealed mass, about an inch in length, numbering probably one hundred eggs to a package, shaped like and about the size of a small ant egg. When hatching time came in the spring, the sight was simply wonderful. Myriads upon multiplied myriads of small, young hoppers appeared everywhere, so thick in places upon the rails of the railway tracks as to impede travel. Words fail to describe adequately the situation. The young hoppers were ravenous. In a large portion of the state every green, edible thing disappeared as if by magic. They matured rapidly and by the 20th of May or a little later the young pests got their wings and shape, after a succession of moultings, and became, by an almost instantaneous transition from a mere rusty hopper, a winged insect capable of prolonged flight. The migration began the moment their wings appeared. The young, wingless insects would begin hopping with a wind from the north, when suddenly with a mighty hop their wings would appear and, spreading them, they would sail away southward on the favoring breeze. In a few days all were gone and the replanting of the corn, oats, and gardens began. But on June 15, 1875, a south wind brought them back. Pale, anxious, frightened groups of men gathered in the cities and villages to discuss the situation, business came to a standstill, and appalling disaster seemed imminent. But Providence had intervened to avert the threatened ruin. It was soon observed that

although they had settled in multiplied billions in the fields and gardens, no depredations were committed. An examination showed that every insect was the victim of more than a single species of parasite, amongst them being a small, yellowish boring beetle, at the base of the wings. None ever again rose in flight. They remained stationary a few hours and perished. Here in Gage county, where comparatively little damage had been done to the growing crops by the young hoppers, a cold rain set in the night of their return, and when it was over there was not a single live grasshopper to be found. Their bodies were washed, by wagon loads, into the draws, frequently damming them and impeding the flow of surface water from the rain. This was the last of the much and justly dreaded grasshopper scourges. More than two score years have elapsed since the final appearance of this strange and destructive migratory insect, and the state of Nebraska has become rich and powerful, but the man who was living in Nebraska in 1874 witnessed a scourge of locusts greater than that of Pharaoh.

The Grasshoppers

EDWIN FORD PIPER

Down by the orchard plot a man and boy,
The boy's hat just above the whitened floor
Of oats half hiding the young trees and swaying
Under a strong breeze in the blazing noon.
The man looks upward, blinks with dazzled eyes,
Then shading face with hand peers painfully;
Little winged creatures drive athwart the sun,
High up, in ceaseless, countless flight to the north.
His mood runs hot envisioning the past.
"It was three years ago this very day.

"Three years ago that clinging, hopping horde
Made the earth crawl. With slobbery mouths,
All leafage, woody twig, and grain, and grass,
They utterly consumed, leaving the land
Abominable. The wind-borne plague rained down
On the full-leaved tree where laughter rippled light
To answer odorous whispers of the flowers.
Soon, naked to the blistering sun, it stared
At the bones of its piteous comrades. Afterwards,
A jest to strangers — charity — cattle hungering —
Women and children starving! But the power of the creatures!
The daughters of the locust, numberless, numberless!
Jaws bite, throats suck, the beauty of lovely fields
Is in their guts, the world is but a mummy!"

Man and boy turn from the oats and the vigorous orchard;
But as they go the lad is looking, looking
To see, high up, like gnats, the winged millions
Moving across the sun. May God rebuke them!

As long as the human race was represented in Nebraska by wandering savages who dwelt sparsely in widely separted communities it was possible for every form of wild life to thrive and increase, but when the white man spreads abroad over nature's wide domain, maintaining fixed habitations, he dominates all forms of life. And the settlement of Nebraska by the palefaced race has brought tremendous changes in its primitive forms. Gone are the useful buffalo, the stately elk, the deer, the antelope, from which the Indian fed and clothed himself and manufactured many of the crude utensils for his own use; gone the larger felines that preyed upon them; fish, bird, and even insect life have also been notably modified by the presence of the white man. The game birds have almost totally disappeared, with the curlews and the plovers, while the wild goose, brant, crane, and duck are rarely seen except in their long, high, semi-annual pilgrimages to and from their breeding grounds on the Saskatchewan and the far north. The denizens of the streams have been depleted both in quantity and quality, many species having wholly disappeared, as the pike, pickerel, bullhead, sucker, chub, red horse, and perch. The waters of our county no longer abound with the buffalo fish or the cat, and even the vicious gar-pike has become scarce. While these are taken in limited numbers, the carp, an alien fish, has largely supplanted them. Even the great Missouri has

suffered similar depletions and invasions and the faithful and continuous efforts of the state through its fish commission to restock our streams with desirable edible fish have so far proved of doubtful value.

The beaver and the otter, which once were found in numbers about the water courses of southeastern Nebraska, have almost wholly disappeared. The mink, muskrat, and skunk are still occasionally trapped or shot, but their pursuit is no longer a profitable occupation. The wolves, badgers, mountain lions, and other noxious carnivora have either been driven away or hunted and killed, until only an occasional coyote, bob cat, or badger is found where once they abounded. Few representatives of the reptilian family remain and these are mostly of an innocuous kind.

Animal life of the state has been affected too by the additions to it which man has consciously made or which have followed his course. Besides the domestic animals which replaced the buffalo, elk, and deer and made civilization possible on the "Great American Desert," wherever man builds, plants, sows, gathers, or reaps, there is found in its greatest perfection the house fly, the Colorado potato-beetle, the chinch bug, the cut-worm, and other insects that prey upon the roots, stems, and leaves of his fields, gardens, and orchards.

CHAPTER VIII

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

NEMAHA LAND DISTRICT — BROWNVILLE LAND OFFICE — REGISTERS AND RECEIVERS — OFFERED AND UNOFFERED LANDS — PREËMPTIONS — FREE HOMESTEAD LAW — AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LAND GRANT ACT — OPERATION OF THE ACT — COLLEGE SCRIP ENTRIES IN TOWNSHIPS — HOMESTEAD ENTRIES

The public domain of the United States has dwindled to a mere fraction of what it was in 1854, when the territory of Nebraska was created by act of congress. The system by which the United States government undertook to dispose of its lands has worked as efficiently as any department of the public service. In every state and territory where public lands were located, and particularly here in the west, the federal land office has always proved an effective and a most important factor in the settlement and development of the country. The prospective settler has met, at the very outset of his inquiries, the organized agencies of his government, prepared to lend him all possible assistance in selecting and locating upon a tract of land.

The local land office for the district in which Gage county was situated in the early pioneer days, was established at Brownville, Nemaha county, Nebraska, under an act of congress, dated March 3, 1857, and opened for business about that time. The land district was officially described as the Nemaha District, while amongst the people it was almost universally designated as the Brownville land district. The office continued in operation at Brownville from the date of its establishment to July 7, 1868, when it was removed to Beatrice. The district was thereafter known as the Beatrice land district, and it embraced Nemaha, Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Fillmore, Thayer, Nuckolls, and Clay counties. The office was maintained at Beatrice from July 7, 1868, to the 15th day of September, 1887, when the district was consolidated with the Lincoln land district and the records of the Beatrice office were removed to Lincoln.

For more than thirty years this office was a necessary and an important factor in the affairs of the inhabitants of the district which it served. Through its ministrations many homes were established and the foundation for many a fortune laid. The volume of business transacted at this office through the greater portion of its existence was enormous. Its officials were called upon to advise the settlers both with respect to the laws under which public lands were granted to individuals and the methods of complying with these laws once the entryman had availed himself of their benefits. The officers of the local land offices of the United States are designated as register and receiver. The fixed salary attached to each office was $500 and an additional amount, on the fee basis, was allowed, not to exceed $2,500, or $3,000 in all. The officers of the old Brownville-Beatrice land office were uniformly gentlemen of high character and excellent ability. Their names may be regarded as worthy of preservation in a work of this kind. At Brownville the officials were:

George H. Nixon, Register, April 9, 1857, temporary; April 16, 1858, permanent.

Charles B. Smith, Receiver, April 11, 1857, temporary; April 16, 1858, permanent.

Richard F. Barrett, Register, May 27, 1861, temporary; July 26, 1861, permanent.

I. Edward Burbank, Receiver, May 27, 1861, temporary.

George F. Watton, Receiver, June 21, 1861, temporary; July 26, 1861, permanent.

Sewell R. Jamison, Receiver, March 10, 1862, permanent.

Charles G. Dorsey, Register, July 25, 1865, temporary; May 16, 1866, permanent.

Theodore W. Bedford, Register, November 5, 1866, temporary.

Henry M. Atkinson, Register, March 7, 1867, permanent.

John S. Carson, Receiver, April 15, 1867, permanent

At Beatrice the officials were:

Hiram W. Parker, Register, June 2, 1871, temporary; December 27, 1871, permanent; January 22, 1876, permanent; January 29, 1880, permanent.

Nathan Blakely, Receiver, August 10, 1869, temporary; December 28, 1869, permanent.

Robert B. Harrington, Receiver, September 10, 1875, temporary; December 17, 1875, permanent; December 22, 1879, permanent.

Hugh J. Dobbs, Register, March 7, 1884.

William H. Somers, Receiver, March 24, 1881.

Joseph Hill, Receiver, June 9, 1885, temporary.

Edward R. Fogg, Receiver, May 24, 1886, permanent.

In the beginning of the land office in the old Nemaha district, the public lands were classified as *offered* and *unoffered* lands. The former comprised all those tracts which had been formally offered by the local land office for sale at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder, the minimum bid allowed being one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. The unoffered lands comprised all public lands which had not been placed on sale at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder. This distinction in the public land laws was made by act of congress in the early '40s, and continued from that time until May 18, 1898, when the law creating the distinction was repealed.

In districts where offered lands were located, those not sold at public vendue when offered, could be afterward bought without settlement for cash, at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Unoffered lands were not open for cash entry. In both classes title could be acquired by entry and actual settlement under the preëmption laws of congress. Likewise military-bounty land warrants issued, under the acts of 1847 and 1855, to the soldiers and sailors of the Revolutionary war, the war of 1812, the Mexican war, and the various Indian wars, could be used in purchasing public lands of the United States, regardless of the foregoing distinction. And under the homestead act, effective January 1, 1863, this distinction was also ignored and entry could be made anywhere on the public domain on lands not reserved or otherwise appropriated by congress.

The offered lands in the old Brownville-Beatrice land district were confined to the Missouri river counties. From first to last Gage county presented a clear field for entry of land under the preëmption, homestead, and other acts for acquiring title on the public domain. Prior to the passage of the homestead law the settlers acquired title under the preëmption act, where purchase was not made by military-bounty land warrants. The procedure under the preëmption laws as applied by claimants was simplicity itself. It consisted in performing some act which amounted to notice to the world of an intention on the part of the settler to claim the tract selected by him — as the erection of some sort of a dwelling or the placing of a foundation for a cabin on the land selected; any act, in fact, which manifested an intent to claim a given tract of land and which at the same time amounted to notice of such intent to an adverse claimant. Such act must of course be followed by filing in the local land office a written declaration of intent on the part of the claimant to enter and purchase said land; it must also be followed by actual settlement on his part, and in twelve months by proof of settlement, of improvement, and the payment to the government of one dollar and twenty-

five cents per acre in cash or in military-bounty land warrants, or, at a later date, by college scrip at the same rate per acre.

A number of preëmption filings were made on Gage county land prior to the taking effect of the homestead law, January 1, 1863, but these were followed by comparatively few final entries. In actual practice, the squatter on the public domain performed his acts of settlement, filed his declaration of intentions in the local land office to appropriate said land and pay for the same, made improvements, established his residence upon the land, and in many instances, without perfecting his entry under the preëmption acts, remained in open, exclusive, adverse possession until the homestead law became effective, when he availed himself of its benefits by changing his preemption into a homestead. Once in actual possession the "Squatter Sovereign" ran little risk of being disturbed by a rival claimant. By a sort of freemasonry existing between them, the settlers allowed it to be understood that there must be no claim jumping, and claim jumpers in Gage county were pretty scarce.

The passage of the free-homestead bill by congress nearly two and one-half years before the close of the great Civil war, was followed, after the close of the war, by a tremendous influx of settlers on the public domain, wherever free homes could be found, and Gage county rapidly filled with actual settlers seeking permanent homes in this beautiful section of country, many of them veterans of the Civil war. But in 1867 this movement was suddenly and permanently halted by the operation of what is known as the Agricultural College Land Grant Act.

Whatever one may think of the beneficent purpose of this act, whereby the national legislature was induced, without the slightest financial consideration, to appropriate nearly ten million acres of the public lands of the United States for educational purposes, there can be no difference of opinion as to the improvidence and wastefulness of this legislation. As set forth in the title to the act, the purpose of this vast donation was to provide for the establishment of one or more institutions in each state, "the leading object of which shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military practice, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states shall respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

Had the operation of this act been confined to those states and territories whose wealth consisted chiefly in the public lands within their boundaries, and which, on account of poverty, were unable to make suitable provision for the education and training of their young men and women, it would be beyond just criticism and worthy of all praise. Probably that was the original intent and purpose of the act, but the selfishness of the old and wealthy states, where there were no public lands, resulted in a distortion of the original intent, and in the end imparted to the act the appearance of a land-grabbing device of colossal proportions, by which states with large delegations in congress profited enormously at public expense.

For the bill in its passage through congress to secure the support of the representatives of those states where there were no public lands subject to entry or purchase under federal laws, an ingeneous scheme was devised whereby scrip was to be issued to all such states for the full amount of their donative shares, at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, for the entire acreage due them on the basis of thirty thousand acres for each senator and representative in congress. The states holding this scrip could under the law either enter land with it themselves or sell it at private sale and use the proceeds of such sale as they deemed proper to carry out the purposes of the law. The result is perfectly obvious — the weak, helpless, needy states, rich only in the public lands within their borders, were restricted to the land itself at the rate of thirty thousand acres for each senator and representative in congress, while the great, strong,

healthy, powerful states took their share in scrip, and either located it themselves at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre on vast tracts of public lands or sold it upon the market for cash. Thus Nebraska received under the act ninety thousand acres of public land, which formed the nucleus for its State University, while the great state of New York received college scrip covering 989,930 acres, part of which was sold on the market at a fraction of its face value, the remainder being used to purchase vast areas of the finest pine land in the world, in Wisconsin and Minnesota. From her donative share New York realized $6,651,473.88, which vast sum constitutes the endowment of Cornell University. Not a single state or territory failed to avail itself of the provisions of this enactment, by which a grand total of 9,597,340 acres of the public lands of the United States were nominally dedicated to the cause of higher education. Only a comparatively few, however, actually received their donative shares in land. As might have been foreseen by any patriotic and prudent statesman, the vast profit of this legislation inured to individuals. The process by which this curious and unexpected result was achieved was very simple. The scrip was thrown indiscriminately on the market and sold for cash to speculators, usually for a fraction of its nominal value, the purchaser or assignee succeeding to the rights of the states to select and pay for the public lands of the country with agricultural-college scrip so purchased, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Thus, Alabama scrip sold for one dollar and six cents per acre, leaving a margin of nineteen cents per acre profit to the purchaser; Arkansas scrip sold for ninety cents, Connecticut scrip for seventy-five cents, Delaware ninety-two cents, Illinois one dollar, Indiana eighty-seven cents, Kentucky sixty cents, Maine and Massachusetts fifty-six cents, Maryland and New Jersey fifty-five cents, Missouri and Pennsylvania fifty-two cents, Ohio fifty-four cents, New Hampshire thirty-two cents, North Carolina forty-six cents, and Rhode Island forty-one cents per acre. Even at these low prices, some of the states were enabled, on account of the vast amount of their donative shares of the public lands, to endow most liberally the institutions founded under the act. Thus, Pennsylvania, with 780,000 scrip acres, received, at the low rate of fifty-two cents per acre, from scrip sales alone the sum of $406,000; Massachusetts, with a donative share of 390,000 acres of the public domain, from scrip sales alone received $219,000; and the other wealthy eastern states profited from scrip sales proportionally. When we take into account the fact that the populous eastern states received the lion's share of this vast donation, and that the new prairie states and territories and the northern timbered states and territories were despoiled of their rich and valuable lands under this act, to build up existing educational institutions in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and other landless states, the improvidence and the selfishness of this legislation must be apparent to the dullest mind.

Gage county suffered severely from this wasteful policy. Speculators thronged her prairies, their pockets and carpetbags stuffed with college scrip bought at nominal figures from Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Missouri, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Rhode Island, New York, and other scrip states, and in the summer of 1867 her broad, fertile acres disappeared as by magic, at the very moment when Nebraska had ceased to be a territory, when the railroads had come or were on their way, and when the pioneer days were over and immigration was setting toward her in an ever increasing stream. Keen-eyed appraisers went leisurely over our county's finest upland regions and marked for entry every desirable tract of land. The following table shows approximately the acreage thus entered in the several townships of our county during the years 1867 and 1868, by the use of college scrip:

Adams	19 sections
Nemaha	19 1-2 sections
Highland	8 sections
Clatonia	3 1-4 sections

Grant	14 1-2 sections
Holt	23 1-2 sections
Hanover	29 1-2 sections
Hooker	29 1-2 sections
Filley	19 1-2 sections
Logan	20 3-4 sections
Midland	14 3-4 sections
Blakely	11 1-2 sections
Lincoln	20 3-4 sections
Riverside	24 3-4 sections
Rockford	18 sections
Sherman	31 1-2 sections
Island Grove	15 1-2 sections
Blue Springs	7 3-4 sections
Sicily	12 1-2 sections
Elm	8 sections

In the northern portion of the county at that time, most of Nemaha township, practically all of Highland, and a large part of both Clatonia and Grant townships had been withdrawn from public entry as state selections under the grant by the general government to the state of Nebraska of 500,000 acres of the public domain for internal improvement, under the act of September 4, 1841. In 1871 these lands were opened for homestead entry, the state's application for the reservation of such lands having been rejected by the general land office at Washington, and were thus saved from the predatory effects of the Agricultural College Land Grant Act. In the south part of the county the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation, of course, escaped speculative spoliation of the college scriptor. The dense population of those townships, where practically each quarter-section of land went to an actual settler, shows what would have taken place had not more than one-half of Gage county's fair domain gone to increase the educational facilities of the wealthy eastern states and line the pockets of speculators in college scrip.

It may interest the reader to know that, notwithstanding the donation of this large acreage of Gage county land in the way here described, a great many homestead entries were, in fact, made in the county by actual bonafide settlers prior to 1871, when the opening of the lands in the northern part of the county noticeably increased the number of such entries.

In the several townships of the county where homestead entries could be made prior to the above date, the number of such entries exclusive of cancellations, was:

Adams	46
Highland (Michael Weaver)	1
Grant	46
Hanover	—
Filley	26
Midland	29
Lincoln	8
Rockford	54
Island Grove	26
Sicily	21
Liberty	20
Nemaha	—
Clatonia	9
Holt	12
Hooker	21
Logan	24
Blakely	52
Riverside	16
Sherman	9
Blue Springs	14
Elm	10

A total of four hundred and forty-four entries. Assuming that each entry covered the maximum of one hundred and sixty acres, the total acreage embraced in these homestead entries is 71,040. Subsequent to January 1, 1871, the public lands in our county subject to homestead entry were almost wholly confined to Nemaha, Highland, Clatonia, and Grant townships, with an occasional entry in some of the other townships, usually growing out of the relinquishment and cancellation of a previous one.

In these calculations the lands of the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation, which were ceded to the United States in 1881 and which were afterward sold for the exclusive benefit of these Indians, for cash, to actual settlers only, under virtually the same conditions and restrictions as prevailed under the homestead law, are not considered. But if we add the

acreage of these lands to the acreage covered by homestead entries in our county, it will be seen that even then less than one-half the territory of Gage county passed from the government of the United States to actual settlers.

Nor are the lands the titles to which were acquired under the preëmption laws or cash entries with military-bounty land warrants, considered in the above calculations, but the lands so purchased from the United States were not of sufficient acreage to affect to any extent the foregoing results.

A moment's reflection will show the striking contrast between the beneficent influence of the free-homestead law and the effects of the agricultural-college act, not only in the early settlement and development of our county but in existing and future conditions. The one operated as a gift from heaven, descending upon an independent, self-respecting and industrious population; the other forms the basis of nearly every large landed fortune in the county. Without it there would have been no such individual domain as the Scully estate, and the problem of landlordism in Gage county would be scarcely worth considering.

CHAPTER IX

THE PIONEERS

First Glimpse of Gage County — Home Building on the Prairies — Food Supplies — Fruits — Fish — Game — The Buffalo — Clothes — Food Substitutes — First Wheat Crop — Spring Wheat — Common Salt — Social Life

It should certainly be the delight of every age to pay grateful tribute to a noble or valiant ancestry. The annals of mankind have but meager interest when stripped of the personal element and confined to a bare narrative of events. But when vivified by the record of the lives of those whose heroic daring lifted them far above the ordinary, common plane of living, history may become the most pleasing and instructive of all subjects of study.

No history of our county would be complete which failed to render justice to its pioneers. Three score and four years have passed since the first wave of immigation broke over the eastern boundary of our state, which marked the close of the long struggle that attended the creation of the territory of Nebraska. Accustomed as we now are to comfortable and often luxurious homes, to cultivated fields, well kept, well traveled public highways, to groves, orchards, meadows, churches and schools, to thriving villages and cities, to newspapers, manufactories, banks, business establishments, railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, to everything, in fact, that typifies modern living, we are too prone to forget the hard, difficult pioneer days, when there were no homes save the settlers' lonely dugout, sod-house, or log-cabin; when there were no fields or meadows save the rolling prairies, stretching away to the horizon on every hand, as far as the eye could see; when there were no highways save the meandering paths of the buffalo and Indian; when there were no orchards, towns or cities, no railroads, telegraph or telephone lines; when all the landscape was fresh from the hand of God, untouched and unchanged by the brain and genius of man.

Not only are we in our present state of happiness and prosperity prone to forget the aspect that nature wore in these primitive solitudes to the wondering view of the first inhabitants of our county, but we may even be strongly inclined to hold as of trifling consequence the sacrifices required of pioneer life and to disparage the actual hardships, dangers, privations, and suffering which they endured whose heroism and courage made it possible for the lines of civilization to be advanced upon the great plains region of the west.

The thin line of immigrants that gathered in the spring and early summer of 1854, on the eastern shore of the Missouri river, awaiting the signal to enter the new territory of Nebraska, rapidly spread over the eastern section of the territory contiguous to that mighty stream. And the early immigrants of Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass, Sarpy, Douglas, and some other of the eastern counties, on account of the navigation then existing on the river, were spared many of the privations of pioneer life. But those who later pushed on into Gage and other counties remote from this, the only source of water transportation available, experienced in every degree the hardships of isolated pioneer existence.

If we turn back the pages that cover the

sixty-four years of our state's history, we will find that in 1854 when people of the New England, the Middle, and the South Atlantic states spoke of the west they meant Ohio, Indiana or, at the farthest, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, — or Iowa or Missouri when they mentioned our western border or frontier. The immigrants bound for Nebraska territory in 1854, and for several years thereafter, usually crossed the Missouri river at Omaha, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Brownville, or some less known village nestled amongst the bluffs on the western shore of that stream. The means of travel were in their crudest state. The intending immigrant might reach the river on foot, on horseback or by mule, ox or horse drawn vehicle, or by the deep-throated, side-wheel Missouri river steamboats, which in those days traversed the "Big Muddy" from St. Louis to the trading posts of the trappers, traders, and frontiersmen scattered along its banks to its source in the northwest. Once having crossed that turbulent stream, the immigrant did not need to be told that he was on the very confines of civilization, since the crudity and newness of his surroundings were vocal with evidence of that fact. He found himself hundreds of miles from the nearest railway, while the future of the electric telegraph was still wrapped up in a congressional appropriation of thirty thousand dollars, to enable Professor Morse to perfect his wonderful invention. Eastward across the river lay the hamlets and sparse settlements of the new state of Iowa; toward the west, from every point as far as the eye could see, stretched the territory of Nebraska, until then wholly unoccupied by civilized man. Of one thing the immigrant could feel assured, — when he turned his back upon the Missouri river and faced the western horizon he was like an army cut off from its base of supplies and lines of communication. Before him lay the undulating almost treeless prairie, rolling away to the west, north, and south like the billows of the ocean, hundreds upon hundreds of miles. It was the "Great American Desert" of the old geographers; the "Plains" of the military department at Washington; the El Dorado of the poor homeseeker; the unorganized, tenantless territory of Nebraska, inhabited only by wild animals and by the red man, almost equally wild. As he advanced westward a little in the brilliant sunlit plain, the last trace of the presence of civilized man soon vanished. The dim wagon trail grew dimmer and more uncertain and finally disappeared. Around on every hand the blue sky, descending to the horizon, encompassed him like a gigantic dome. A silence, a solitude that had brooded together over these vast areas since the world began, closed about him as his distance from the river settlements slowly increased. In these primeval solitudes he might remain for weeks, aye months, without seeing a single human face or hearing save his own, a single human voice.

Such was the face that nature wore and the conditions that life presented to those who drew the first furrows in the virgin soil of Nebraska. But the true pioneer looks beyond his present hard, uninviting surroundings, and with prophetic vision beholds states and nations arise from tenantless wildernesses and naked plains. Others may grow weary or discouraged, and abandon the enterprise, — not so the pioneer. Destiny points his course and with unswerving fidelity he calmly awaits the fruition of his hopes!

But the prospect that confronted the Gage county pioneer in that long by-gone day — three score and four years ago — was not wholly uninviting, nor his surroundings as desolate, nor his condition as desperate as to the unreflecting mind they might have seemed. Resourceful by nature, self-reliant from the hard school of experience, courageous, determined, he was his own best guarantor of the successful issue of his venture as a pioneer in the new territory. If the winds of winter whistled and roared about his lonely cabin and drifting snows almost hid it from sight, within the blazing logs glowed on the rude hearth and all was warmth and cheer. If the winter seemed long, cold, and hard, it burgeoned at last into spring, whose vernal clouds and dappled sky, whose long twilight and dawn, song of birds and distant boom of prairie chicken

welcoming the rising sun, renewed his hopes and spurred him on to yet higher endeavor. Summer followed, always beautiful, with the wide billowy prairie garbed in green, white, pink, red, yellow, and gold; then autumn, with its brilliant and soothing colors outlining prairies and stream.

The occupations of the pioneer were many and varied. His first care was to provide some sort of shelter for himself and family. Here in Gage county this usually consisted of a log cabin, or occasionally a sod house, generally comprising a single room, constructed for that purpose, drawn by several yoke of oxen or sometimes by three or more horses or mules. The sod was usually broken to a depth of about three inches, the plows being equipped with either a standing or a rolling cutter, and the depth of the furrow regulated by a device which held the plow steadily on a level. With the pioneers, perfection in prairie breaking consisted in so turning the sod that the edges lapped in such a way as to give to a strip of breaking, the appearance of the weather-boarded side of a frame house. The breaking could be planted

From drawing by Geo. Simons, in the frontier sketch book of N. P. Dodge

First Claim Cabin in Nebraska
Built by Daniel Norton, between Omaha and Bellevue, in 1853

probably fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, of a single low story in height, built in some bend of a stream or other sheltered spot. It was often scant quarters for a family, but children of pioneer parents soon learned to accommodate themselves to their surroundings and the exigencies of circumstances. After his family the pioneer's next care was to construct shelter for such stock as he possessed and to provide for their maintenance. This shelter was apt to be a very crude affair, though warm and safe, while hay made from blue-stem and other grasses, and corn grown on the newly turned sod, furnished an abundant supply of animal food.

The water supply for man and beast, and fuel being provided, the pioneer turned his attention to breaking the tough prairie sod, which was accomplished as a rule with plows as a corn field either by dropping the corn in every second or third furrow and covering with the next, or by cutting a gash in the upturned sod with a sharp ax or spade and inserting the seed, firming the earth above with the foot. Pumpkin seeds, watermelon seeds, beans, and other field or garden truck were planted in the same way, and this method carefully followed was most apt to give satisfactory results. If the season were favorable, crops of sod corn were often raised yielding as high as twenty-five or more bushels per acre, and the rich, new soil produced potatoes, melons, pumpkins, squashes, turnips, and other vegetables in great profusion and of excellent quality. Ordinarily a very few months in the growing season of the year, under favorable conditions, were sufficient to place the family of the pioneer beyond the

possibility of actual want, as far as good wholesome vegetables and Indian corn could insure this result. For sugar a ready and a very wholesome substitute was found in common sorghum, and in the production of a high grade of sorghum molasses the pioneer often attained great skill, the product being wholesome and pleasant to the taste. Beginning with the first settlement of the county, and extending until long after the close of the great Civil war, this nutritious product entered largely into the dietary of the people.

The pioneers of our county found growing in great abundance along the streams thickets of wild plums and chokecherries. The plums were often of large size and delicious flavor; the cherries, large and meaty, hung in long, thick, grape-like bunches in profusion on the low bushes. These thickets were apt to be found in great perfection in the bends of the streams, forming a sort of fire break to the groves of timber, of which they were the fringe. The mold produced by their thick leaves from year to year afforded almost ideal conditions for the spread of forest growth. In the early spring, when the elms, willows, cottonwoods, box elders, oaks, and other trees along the streams were putting forth their tender young leaves and the fresh green of the prairies was beginning to show on every hand, the milk-white, fragrant blossoms of the plum and cherry thickets afforded a pleasing diversity to the landscape, often outlining the course of the streams for great distances.

In the woods were found numerous varieties of excellent wild grapes and wild gooseberries, while at the edges of the prairies the wild strawberries grew in abundance — and these formed the staple fruit supply of the pioneers. These fruits were made into jellies, preserves, jams, butters, and other forms of food for winter use, and with the thrifty housewife's tomato preserves, pumpkin butter, dried corn, and other preparations of a like character, they formed an important feature of the homely family food supply in the early days, as they virtually took the place of the orchards and vineyards of the older settled portions of the country. These native wild fruits have long since lost their value and importance as sources of food supply. The plum and cherry thickets have largely disappeared and even the wild grape and gooseberry no longer enter extensively into the dietary of the present population. The custom of pasturing non-tillable and timbered land with stock has proved almost fatal to the existence and spread of every sort of wild shrub, vine, and forest growth. The time is rapidly approaching when the scarcity and the high cost of coal and lumber will force a return, in the matter of forestation, to the primitive conditions of the country as respects the protection of growing timber from destruction by pasturage.

The food supply afforded by these sources was not infrequently supplemented by the streams, the groves, and the prairie. The waters of our county in an early day abounded with several varieties of edible fish which were easily taken by the expenditure of a little time and trouble. Many of the most desirable sort, the pike, the pickerel, the perch, the sunfish, the chub, the red horse, have long since disappeared. Throughout the pioneer days our prairies abounded with grouse or prairie chickens, the woods with squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and quails, with an occasional flock of wild turkeys.

Prior to the advent of the white man, Gage county had been a favorite range of the wild buffalo, the elk, the deer, the antelope. As late probably as 1855, when the Otoe and Missouri tribes of Indians were transferred from the Missouri river country to our county, these great game animals were here in large herds and bands. The early settlers found their remains in every direction. They had slowly retired, however, before the red man, so that by 1857 the buffalo had wholly disappeared from the confines of our county, but still could be found in great abundance in the region west of the Little Blue river. Small bands of elk were occasionally seen in the northern portions of the county, while deer and antelope, when the first settlers arrived, were still fairly abundant, especially in the

winter about the heads of draws or wherever thick underbrush afforded shelter and food.

Of all the plains animals the buffalo was at once the most picturesque and the most useful. These huge beasts ranged the prairies by millions from the Height of Land in the far north to the tide waters of the gulf of Mexico. They spread over what is now Texas, western Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas, and Montana. To the Indian tribes inhabiting these regions they furnished clothing, food, materials for sewing garments, knives, arrow points, war clubs, and many other useful articles of Indian manufacture for both peace and war. The building of the trans-continental railway lines in 1867 and in subsequent years, by multiplying the means for their destruction, finally led to the wanton extinction of this wonderful and picturesque indigenous source of wealth. Such representatives of this once numerous and powerful denizen of the prairies as now remain are found only in parks or shows, in semi or complete confinement, regarded as curiosities and forming a sad commentary upon the careless wastefulness of a government to which conservation of natural resources of wealth has until recently been a subject of minor consideration — a high sounding phrase.

From such sources of food supply as here given, the pioneer was able fully to supplement the products of his raw land and stock of domestic animals and to live in security against the demands of hunger through the most strenuous times, until his harvest ripened again upon the rich soil of his homestead and the returns of his toil and foresight finally rendered him indifferent to the wild plum and grape, the bison, the deer, the antelope, and those conditions of living which his dependence on them implied.

Probably the most perplexing subject with which the pioneer had to deal concerned clothes. Even before the beginning of the war of the rebellion, in 1861, clothing materials of all kinds here in Gage county were scarce and expensive. The cost of all commodities was increased by the Civil war of 1861-1865, which also augmented the scarcity of many articles. But in the case of wearing apparel the cost was not only very much enhanced but there was often little of much value to be had. The scarcity of clothing and the materials for it, as well as the cost of all clothing materials, was manifested in many ways, but chiefly by plainness and inexpensiveness of attire. Frequently the men and boys wore coats made by wives and mothers from blankets obtained from the Indians by barter, while pantaloons constructed from meal sacks or any common, cheap material were much in evidence. Shortly before the close of the war, and for some time thereafter, army contract clothing which had been condemned and rejected by the government was to be had at fairly reasonable figures, and a civilian partly clad in army blue was a common sight on the streets of Beatrice and elsewhere long after the war had closed. Boots, shoes, socks, hats, caps, mittens, gloves, and other articles of wearing apparel for men and boys were often crude in manufacture as well as material. The common footwear for winter was brogans and cowhide boots and shoes, while in summer the country population during the war went mostly barefoot. Occasionally Indian moccasins would be worn and not infrequently rough homemade foot-gear, while the skins of animals — the badger, coon, coyote, squirrel, sheep, antelope, deer — were often used for caps, mittens, leggings, and vests. Leather straps, strips of buckskin, and even bedticking, often supplied the office of suspenders, and all articles of wearing apparel were more or less of home manufacture.

Wives and daughters dressed plainly in homemade garments. The sunbonnet was the most fashionable form of female headgear and crinoline was worn by all. Outside the villages, Beatrice and Blue Springs, what might be deemed a well dressed lady or gentleman was, in fact, rarely seen amongst the pioneers, and none but beggars and tramps would now think of dressing as rural folks in that far off day were forced to dress.

In addition to his other privations, the

pioneer during the opening years of our county's history was frequently unable to procure tea, coffee, wheat flour, coal oil, salt, and many other commodities of common household consumption, nearer than the Missouri river, if at all. Even when procurable, such articles were expensive and the cost often prohibitive. For tea and coffee substitutes were found which were relished by many. Often a burnt crust of corn or any bread, parched corn, or even corn meal stirred with sorghum and browned over the fire to the size and consistency of grape nuts, made a substitute for coffee. For tea the leaves of summer savory and various other herbs were used in place of Bohea, Souchong, Young Hyson, and Gunpowder. The substitute for wheat flour was of course corn meal, and many a family was reared to strength and happiness largely on corn bread, milk, butter, garden vegetables, and such wild meat as was available. The common substitute for coal oil for lighting purposes was the tallow candle or the old fashioned homemade lamp, consisting of some sort of receptacle, as a saucer, teacup, or tin plate, with a twist of cotton cloth for a wick, immersed in lard.

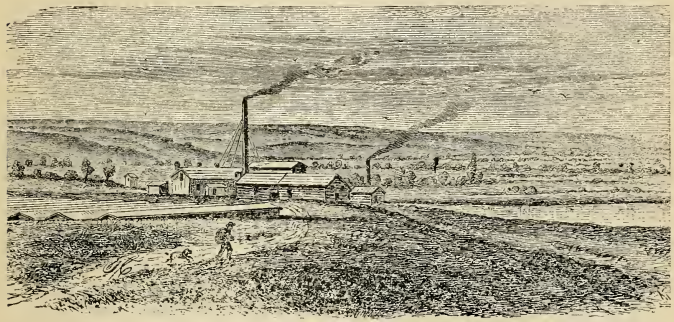
Wheat was not grown in Gage county prior to 1861 or 1862, when spring wheat was introduced, and for many years it constituted the only variety planted. At first the settlers strove to raise only enough for their own use, as there was no home market for their surplus. And in addition the manufactory of wheat flour was in its crudest state. The first mill for grinding grain of any kind in Gage county was at the Otoe reservation, and for several years corn meal and graham flour were its only products. The pioneer hauled his wheat to Brownville, Peru, Nebraska City, and even to points in western Iowa, to obtain his supply of wheat flour. But about the year 1864 Fordyce Roper came into possession of the milling franchise in Beatrice and erected a small mill, run by water power, on the present site of Black Brothers' fine merchant mill. At the same time the United States government began to make white flour at the mill on the Otoe reservation, and thereafter both points became important milling centers for an increasingly large patronage. These were toll mills, where the farmer delivered his grain at the mill in large or small quantities, divided it with the miller on the proportional basis fixed by law and waited around until his grist was ground. Sometimes this might require several days, as each customer took his turn, like buying tickets at a railway station on an excursion day. Those living close at hand could, and often did, leave their grists and return later for their share of the flour.

Spring wheat continued to be a staple crop here until about 1876, when the chinch bug became so destructive to the plant that its cultivation ceased, and fall wheat was substituted for it with more happy results, while the chinch bug as a pest disappeared. The surplus wheat crop was either hauled to market at some Missouri river point or made into flour and hauled by wagon loads to the stage stations, ranches, and military posts along the old military highway from Independence, Missouri, Leavenworth, Atchison, and St. Joseph to Fort Kearney and beyond, where it found a ready sale at good prices, along with the homesteaders' surplus butter, eggs, beef, pork, and corn.

Common salt also was a necessary article that was difficult to obtain through the ordinary channels of trade. At a very early period in the settlement of our state, the salt basin at Lincoln became a factor of much importance not only to the pioneers of Gage county but also to large areas of the settled portions of the territories of Nebraska and Kansas and the state of Iowa; for here, under favorable conditions, the settler by a few hours' labor could often obtain enough of this important substance to last an ordinary family for an entire year. Throughout the summer months, in dry weather, a thin crust of salt would be produced every twenty-four hours over the low, flat, semi-dry surface of the basin, and this could be scraped up by wagon loads. At first the settlers hauled their scrapings home and proceeded to cleanse the salt from its impurities. This was done

by boiling the mass in sorghum pans or large cast-iron kettles, skimming off the impurities that rose to the surface and evaporating the strong brine in shallow vessels. From a wagon load of scrapings could be produced by this method a barrel or more of clean, pure salt in a few days, the length of time required depending upon the sun and the atmospheric conditions. Under favorable circumstances ten inches of brine could be completely reduced to high-grade salt in sixty hours.

Social intercourse and social diversions amongst the pioneers were on a plane commensurate with their lives. To those who are wholly unaccustomed to the conditions



Salt Basin and Salt Works, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1872

Very shortly after the beginning of the Civil war, in 1861, there had been established at the basin a regular industry for producing salt in quantities, by evaporation. People coming from great distances for salt were enabled to exchange flour, corn, eggs, butter, potatoes, and other farm produce for salt ready for immediate use. Or upon the payment of fifty cents per hundred weight they could buy the crude salt which in fair weather had been scraped together in heaps under some sort of shelter, and by subsequent evaporation at home secure their supply of salt. This was a great convenience, since many a settler after driving for miles to obtain his annual salt supply found the basin black and bare, on account of rain, mist, fog, or exceptionally high winds, and might even be compelled to return home saltless after camping for several days on the salt flats. For a number of years several enterprising gentlemen managed to make a very comfortable living in this industry, besides enjoying in its season the fine shooting of wild goose, duck, crane, and other water fowl that in myriads frequented the salt lake at the basin.

which a new country, devoid of every convenience of modern living, imposes on its adventurous first inhabitants, the life of a Gage county pioneer may seem cruelly hard and unattractive — a drab existence from which one might reasonably exclaim in the language of the Book of Common Prayer, "Good Lord deliver us." Such persons take small account of the wonderful adaptability of human nature which enables the normal man often to turn to his advantage his most adverse surroundings. And, besides, the pioneers of a new country are largely in a class by themselves. They possess the prevision of the seer of visions and the dreamer of dreams, and are endowed with the never-failing light of imagination. To such, pioneer life in the early days in Nebraska was any-

thing but dull and uninteresting. Its great simplicity and its freedom from those exactions which wealth imposes left time for social intercourse. None were rich and few so poor as to suffer by contrast with their neighbors. Amongst the pioneers there existed a far truer sense of equality than can anywhere be found in communities where society is complex and where prevail social distinctions resting on wealth, ancestry, or position. Neighbors were few and often remote, but distance was no barrier to social intercourse in those far-off simple days. The settlers were not usually pressed for time and made nothing of traveling, even with slow ox teams, several miles to spend the day with friends. Social gatherings, picnics, Sunday schools and other religious meetings, and even dances, were apt to bring together whole townships. Innocent youthful parties were frequent, where the masculine element appeared in its smartest garments, and well greased cow-hide boots; the feminine in its prettiest pink and white, most fetching poke bonnet and newest crinoline. Tag, blindman's buff, drop the handkerchief, and other youthful games served to pass the hours. Refreshments consisted at all social gatherings of native walnuts, popcorn, and sorghum taffy, while gaiety ruled the happy throng. Dancing was always a staple amusement for the youth of the community and even for those of staider deportment and greater age. It was not the fox trot or bunny hug, not often the waltz, polka, or schottisch, but the Virginia reel or the common square dance, with the fiddles wailing out the "Money Musk," the "Arkansas Traveler," "The Girl I Left Behind Me," and other simple, lively melodies, while some one called to the waiting couples on the floor, "Salute your partners and the opposite lady"; when this act of ballroom courtesy had been performed there would come the stentorian call, "Forward four," then "Balance all" and "Swing your partners," and so on through the whole set of dancing figures till the call "To your seats" came at last, after several minutes of glorious rythmic motion in time to the rude orchestra. After a few moments of social intercourse, laughter, perchance a song, the floor manager's call was again heard good and loud, "Choose your partners for the next dance," and if the young swain was fortunate enough to lead forward the girl of his choice, his happiness was unalloyed, and in the minds of the happy sons and daughters of our pioneers was apt to be eclipsed Byron's description of the great ball in Brussels the night before Waterloo, when

"There was a sound of revelry by night,
And Belgium's capital had gathered there
Her beauty and her chivalry; and bright
The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men.
A thousand hearts beat happily, and when
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
Soft eye looked love to eye that spoke again,
And all went merry as a marriage bell."

CHAPTER X

"Have You An Eye," Poem by Edwin Ford Piper — Early Gage County Markets — Missouri River-Oregon Trail — Insufficiency of Local Markets — High Prices — Missouri River Points Best Purchasing Markets—Oregon Trail Best Selling Market — Its Early History — Great South Pass — John C. Fremont — Origin of Term, "Military Road" — Starting Point — Route — Marcus Whitman — Changes — Statistics on Northern Route — An Emigrant Route — Freighting — Nebraska City — Overland Stage — Pony Express — Beatrice Route — General Description.

Have You An Eye?

Have you an eye for the trails, the trails,
The old mark and the new?
What scurried here, what loitered there,
In the dust and in the dew?

Have you an eye for the beaten track,
The old hoof and the young?
Come name me the drivers of yesterday,
Sing me the songs they sung.

O, was it a schooner last went by,
And where will it cross the stream?
Where will it halt in the early dusk,
And where will the camp-fire gleam?

They used to take the shortest cut
The cattle trails had made;
Get down the hill by the easy slope
To the water and the shade.

But it's barbed wire fence, and section line.
And kill-horse travel now;
Scoot you down the canyon bank,—
The old road's under plough.

Have you an eye for the laden wheel,
The worn tire or the new?
Or the sign of the prairie pony's hoof
That was never trimmed for shoe?

O little by-path and big highway,
Alas, your lives are done.
The freighter's track a weed-grown ditch,
Points to the setting sun.

The marks are faint and rain will fall,
The lore is hard to learn.
O heart, what ghosts would follow the road
If the old years might return.[1]

The lack of convenient markets was perhaps as serious a drawback to the early settler of our county as any of his numerous hardships. At the very beginning, of course, there was no need of markets. On account of drought, hot, dry winds, grasshoppers, or other calamity, it frequently happened that the settler had no surplus, but had to supplement the meager returns from his claim by such food as the streams, woods, and prairies supplied. But in process of time the problem of markets became immediate and insistent.

It was often as necessary to be able to buy in a convenient market as to sell, and for many years here in Gage county merchants were able to supply to only a limited degree the necessary demands of the population. Their stock in trade consisted principally of the bare necessities of life, flour, bacon, cheese, crackers, sorghum, and the like, and as they would not usually pay cash for farm products, transactions with their customers were largely a matter of barter, — calicoes for eggs, denims for gooseberries or butter. There being virtually no home market where the pioneer could both sell for cash the surplus of his labor and

[1] From *Barbed Wire and Other Poems*, by Edwin Ford Piper (1917).

skill and purchase the necessary articles of consumption for himself and family, he was often compelled to seek distant markets in which to sell as well as buy. Thus many of the commonest things in use, as a hat, a bonnet, a slate, a pencil, a spool of thread, farm machinery, tools, clothing, and the like, could often be had only at some Missouri river town or village. This condition of affairs is tolerably well stated by the following extract from a letter written from the interior of the territory of Nebraska as late as January 26, 1866, in which the writer says:

"I will give you, or attempt it,— for nothing could show except the actual living here,— some idea of the life in these western wilds. In the first place we are about as near in the center of nowhere as I care to be. We are fifty miles directly west from Nebraska City, which is the nearest point where one can buy a shoe-string or a spool of thread. Farms here are 'ranches,' cattle yards 'corrals'; there are no fences of any account, people herd their cattle by day, put them in corrals by night, that is they 'corral' them."

From the beginning of our county's history in 1857 until long after the close of the Civil war, until the railroads came, in fact, prices ranged high on all sorts of commodities. This was due to two main causes, namely, a depreciated medium of exchange and the absence of anything like a system of rapid transportation.

In 1854, the year which witnessed the first imigration to our county, the whole country was laboring in the slough of a financial depression induced in part, if not mainly, by a system of state banks, commonly designated "Wildcat," which sprang into being after the dissolution of the historic United States Bank and its branches, by Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, in 1835. These banks were invariably what is known as banks of issue, and their beautifully engraved notes, containing the figure of an Indian, dog, buffalo, tree, cat, or other meaningless device, and intended to circulate as money, were so often utterly worthless as to destroy public confidence in the entire system. Gold and silver were at a tremendous premium and difficult to get. All classes of chattels as well as land had an inflated value when measured by this medium of exchange. In every case the value of a bill depended wholly on the rating of the bank issuing it, and this could be shown only by the "National Business Man's Detector," a publication intended to give the financial standing and condition of every bank of issue in the United States. The public was wholly dependent upon such information as to the solvency of the banks of the entire country.

The working of this system of exchange can be illustrated by a concrete example. An immigrant party to the territory of Nebraska, in 1859, tendered the owner of the ferry boat in payment of its passage charge at the point where they desired to cross the Missouri river, a bill issued by a newly organized bank of Indiana. The bank was not listed in the copy of the "Detector" in the possession of the ferryman, and he refused the transportation until he could telegraph to St. Joseph and receive a reply assuring him of the solvency of the Indiana bank. This took from three o'clock until seven o'clock in the afternoon. All business transactions were necessarily conducted in the same cautious and cumbersome manner. The National Banking Act of 1864 introduced a stable as well as a uniform monetary system, under the general supervision of the government of the United States, and "Wildcat" banking became a thing of the past. But to such a deplorable state had the country fallen that the issuance of the treasury notes and the national greenback currency early in the great Civil war, as war measures, acted upon the business world like the elixir of life, and this even though the greenback currency itself possessed a purchasing power far below its par value. For example, in 1863 one hundred dollars in gold would purchase two hundred and eighty dollars in greenbacks.

As the products of the soil increased, the pioneers, following a natural law of commerce, turned to the nearest cash market in which to dispose of their surplus. This was the great continental highway which was known to the traders, ranchmen, and overland stage drivers

as the "Military Road," but which is now more generally and perhaps more properly designated as the "Oregon Trail." The certainty of good cash prices for almost every description of farm produce and live stock along this great thoroughfare not only relieved the settlers of the dread and fear of want, but also had the effect of steadying and stimulating prices at home, thereby creating a better home market. Through the agency of this great public roadway eastern Nebraska rapidly filled with immigrants and the slow accumulation of wealth and fixed capital set in. This great national highway was so much a part of our county's early development and entered so largely into the life of the pioneers that it deserves a place in this history.

The Oregon Trail has been described as the route of "a national movement"—the migration of a people seeking to avail itself of opportunities which have come but rarely in the history of the world and will never come again. It was a route every mile of which had been the scene of hardship and suffering, yet of high purpose and stern determination.

The known history of the great trail begins with the establishment of the fortified trading post known as Astoria, on the Columbia river, fifteen miles above its mouth, in 1811, by the agents of John Jacob Astor, head of the American Fur Company. This venture failed and in 1813 it was abandoned, but in their expeditions to and from the post the Astorians established a traveled road over most of the distance between Independence and Astoria. Later this dim trail was followed by the hunters, trappers, and traders whose occupations took them to the northwest, and finally by explorers, surveyors, Mormons, and emigrants making their way to Utah, Oregon, and California.

In 1824 the Great South Pass, at the head of the Sweetwater, a branch of the North Platte river, was discovered, which greatly facilitated western travel. In 1832 Captain Bonneville passed over this route from Independence to California, and it is claimed that his was the first wagon train over the great trail. In 1842 John C. Frémont, but recently commissioned lieutenant of a corps of topographical engineers, by the direction of the federal government, led a surveying expedition from Independence, by way of the Grand Island, in the Platte, to the Great South Pass and the Rocky mountains. This expedition was accompanied by the famous Kit Carson, as guide. It consisted of twenty-seven armed and mounted men, together with the young lieutenant and the twelve-year-old son of Colonel Thomas H. Benton, United States senator from Missouri, whose daughter, Jessie, was Frémont's wife.

In 1846 Frémont's route was followed by Joel Palmer and party, from Indiana, and by

Engraved from pencil sketch in the Frontier Sketch Book of N. P. Dodge

A Mormon Encampment about 1846

Edwin Bryant and party. In 1843 the Oregon immigration set in, and in 1847 began the great Mormon immigration to Utah, which lasted for several years. The main body of "Saints," some fifteen thousand, led by Brigham Young, set out from Florence, Nebraska, taking the already broken trail up the north side of the Platte river. But from Independence, Westport, and other Missouri frontier points the Mormons followed the southern trail to its confluence with the northern in the neighbor-

John C. Frémont

hood of the Great South Pass. In 1849 came the gold excitement in California and a mighty emigration set in across the plains, along the old trail. The following year General Albert Sidney Johnston, who was afterward commander in chief of the Confederate armies, led an armed force of five thousand men along the trail, from Fort Leavenworth to Utah, to suppress a threatened Mormon insurrection supposed to be brewing at the time, and from this circumstance the eastern portion of this great highway was thereafter frequently designated as the "Military Road." In 1859 placer gold was discovered in the sands of Cherry creek, where the city of Denver now stands, and the following year, placer gold was discovered also in the neighborhood of Pike's Peak. The immigration that followed these several events in our country's history imparted to the old trail tremendous importance in the settlement and development of the west and northwest.

The actual starting point of the Oregon Trail was St. Louis, the entrepôt of western traffic. From there to the mouth of the Kansas the journey could be made by steamboat. But from the Kansas river, the upward course of the Missouri for six hundred miles was almost directly north, which rendered its further navigation for those bound for Oregon, California, and the Rocky mountain regions undesirable. Land expeditions became the recognized mode of travel from this and all upper Missouri river points to the far west and northwest. The Santa Fe Trail also had its origin at the mouth of the Kansas river, some years prior to the beginning of overland travel along the Oregon Trail. To accommodate the travel on both these historic thoroughfares the town of Independence, Missouri, first sprang into existence, and, later, Westport, now the site of Kansas City. Here were located horseshoeing and repair shops, general outfitting and supply houses, horse and cattle markets,—everything in fact required by the caravan trade to Santa Fe and the Oregon country.

From Independence the two trails were at first identical as far out as the neighborhood of the town of Gardner, Kansas, a distance of forty-one miles. Here a signboard was erected, with an arrow pointing toward the northwest and bearing the legend "Road to Oregon." Never before or since those memorable days has a wayside sign announced so long or so unusual a journey. Leading on from this point across the country in an almost straight northwest direction, the original trail crossed the Kansas river at Papin's Ferry, where the state capital of Kansas now stands, eighty-one miles out from Independence. The general itinerary of the early trail from this point to its destination was as follows: Turkey creek, ninety-five miles; Big Vermillion, 160

miles; Big Blue river, 174 miles; here the ford was first near the mouth of the Little Blue, and eight miles beyond the ford Albert Sidney Johnston's "Military Road" came in, bringing the travel from Leavenworth, Atchison and St. Joseph; later the ford was diverted to Marysville, where the junction of the two roads occurred. The trail entered Nebraska a trifle east of the southwest corner of Gage county,— at a point now occupied by a monument; then on to Big Sandy, 226 miles, near its junction with Little Blue river; Platte river, 316 miles. The trail now led up the immediate valley of the Platte to the junction of the North and South Forks; Lower Ford, on the South Platte, 493 miles, where the road to the headwaters of the South Platte led away from the trail, up the south bank of the river; Ash Hollow, 513 miles; Court House Rock, 555 miles; Chimney Rock, 571 miles; Scott's Bluffs, 616 miles; Laramie, 667 miles; Big Springs, 680 miles; Ford of the Platte, 794 miles; Poison Spider creek, 807 miles; Independence Rock, 838 miles; Devil's Gate, 843 miles; Great South Pass, 947 miles. This is the most celebrated pass in the entire length of the continental divide. Here the trail passed from Atlantic to Pacific waters. Pacific Springs, 952 miles; Green river, 1014 miles; Fort Bridger, 1070 miles; junction with Sublette's Cutoff, 1146 miles. This cutoff eliminated the wide detour by way of Fort Bridger; it left the main road at Little Sandy, 959 miles, and, taking a nearly due west course, reached Big Sandy, 975 miles; then Green river, 1021 miles; Bear river, 1093 miles; Smith's Fork, 1149 miles; Thompson's Fork, 1156 miles; Soda Springs, 1206 miles; Fort Hall, 1288 miles (on the left bank of the Snake river, the third important station on the trail and the first on Columbia waters); American Falls, 1308 miles; Salmon Falls, 1439 miles; Fort Boise, 1585 miles; Powder river, 1692 miles; the Grande Ronde, 1736 miles; Umatilla river, 1791 miles; Columbia river, 1835 miles; The Dalles, 1893 miles; the Cascades, 1977 miles; Fort Vancouver, opposite the mouth of the Willamette, head of navigation on the Columbia and properly regarded as the end of the Oregon Trail, 2020 miles.[2]

From the time of the Astorians (1811-1813) to the beginning of the Oregon immigration (1843) travel along the great trail was largely confined to exploring, surveying, and military expeditions and to parties engaged in hunting, trapping, and trade with the Indians. These stopped short of covering the entire distance to the Pacific coast by a direct continuous route, and it remained for Dr. Marcus Whitman to demonstrate to the world the practicability of such a highway of travel.

Brigham Young

In 1836 this remarkable man had gone into the Oregon country as a missionary-physician, under the auspices of the American Board. In 1842 he returned to the east deeply impressed with the great value of Oregon and strongly opposed to the treaty of 1818, which established joint occupation of that territory by England and the United States. He visited Washington for the purpose of acquainting the federal authorities with the advantages that would accrue to this country by the abrogation of the treaty and the acquirement of the

[2] Nota bene: All distances here given are from Independence.

Photographs by John Wright, staff artist.

Scenes at Ash Hollow

The original route of the Oregon Trail from the south fork to the north fork of the Platte river, by way of Ash Hollow, descends northward from the plain, 3,763 feet above sea level, four miles to the river bottom, at an elevation of 3,314 feet. From the head of the Hollow, the trail, still visible, wound to the left about a mile along the sharp-backed ridges, then dropped by a very steep descent eastward into the Hollow, which here widens into a level valley from a quarter to half a mile wide. The spring, a luxury to the emigrants, still bubbles up strongly a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the Hollow, and at the base of a cliff about 100 feet high, as shown in the middle picture. The cedar and ash trees at one time abundant here all have been cut away. Marks of Fort Grattan, occupied as a post in 1855, are visible near the river north of the east side of the mouth of the Hollow. On the west side of the mouth of the Hollow are the modest gravestones of Rachel Patterson, a girl of nineteen, who died in 1849, and of two infant children.

The figure on the hill is that of Mr. Alberts, editor of the Morton History.

undisputed possession of Oregon. To prove the accessibility of Oregon to settlers he assisted in leading a large party of emigrants, in 1843, from Independence to the Columbia river. In 1844, at the suggestion of the secretary of war, he prepared a bill for passage by congress, which provided for the establishment of military posts along the trail from Papin's Ferry to the Pacific coast, for the protection of emigration. Writing of this measure, to the secretary, in 1844, he says:

"I have since our last interview, been instrumental in piloting across the route described in the accompanying bill and which is the only eligible wagon road, no less than two hundred families, consisting of one thousand persons, of both sexes, with their wagons, amounting in all to more than one hundred and twenty, with six hundred and ninety-four oxen and seven hundred and seventy-three loose cattle. As pioneers these people have established a durable road from Missouri to Oregon, which will serve to mark permanently the route for larger numbers for each succeeding year."

On the arrival of these emigrants, in 1843, a provisional government was formed for Oregon, and on the withdrawal by England of her claims, Oregon, in 1848, was erected into a territory of the United States. These results are justly attributable to the indefatigable energy, courage and patriotic ardor of Dr. Marcus Whitman.

"As a highway of travel the Oregon Trail is the most remarkable known to history. Considering the fact that it originated with the spontaneous use of travelers; that no transit ever located a foot of it; that no level established its grades; that no engineer sought out the fords or built any bridges or surveyed the mountain passes; that there was no grading to speak of nor any attempt at metalling the road-bed;—and the general good quality of this two thousand miles of highway will seem most extraordinary. Father De Smet, who was born in Belgium, the home of good roads, pronounced the Oregon Trail one of the finest highways in the world. At the proper season of the year this was undoubtedly true. Before the prairies became too dry, the natural turf formed the best roadway for horses to travel on that has probably ever been known. It was amply hard to sustain traffic, yet soft enough to be easier to the feet than even the most perfect asphalt pavement. Over such roads, winding ribbon-like through the verdant prairies, amid the profusion of spring flowers, with grass so plentiful that the animals reveled in its abundance, and game everywhere greeted the hunter's rifle, and finally, with pure water in the streams, the traveler sped his way

Peter J. De Smet, S. J.

with a feeling of joy and exhilaration. But not so when the prairies became dry and parched, the road filled with stifling dust, the stream-beds mere dry ravines, or carrying only alkaline water which could not be used, the game all gone to more hospitable sections, and the summer sun pouring down its heat with torrid intensity. It was then that the Trail became a highway of desolation, strewn with abandoned property, the skeletons of horses, mules and oxen, and, alas, too often, with freshly made mounds and head boards that told the pitiful tale of suffering too great to be endured. If the trail was the scene of romance, adventure, pleasure, and excitement,

so it was marked in every mile of its course by human misery, tragedy and death.

"The immense travel which in later years passed over the trail carved it into a deep furrow, often with several parallel tracks making a total of a hundred feet or more. It was an astonishing spectacle, even to white men, when seen for the first time. It may easily be imagined how great an impression the sight of this road must have made upon the minds of the Indians. Father De Smet has recorded some interesting observations upon this point.

"In 1851 he traveled, in company with a large number of Indians, from the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers to Fort Laramie, where a great council was held that year to form treaties with the several tribes. Most of these Indians had not been in that section before and were quite unprepared for what they saw. 'Our Indian companions,' says Father De Smet, 'who had never seen but the narrow hunting paths by which they transport themselves and their lodges, were filled with admiration on seeing this noble highway, which is as smooth as a barn floor swept by winds, and not a blade of grass can shoot up on it on account of the continual passing. They conceived a high idea of the countless White Nation, as they express it. They fancied that all had gone over that road and that an immense void must exist in the land of the rising sun. Their countenances testified evident incredulity when I told them that their exit was in no wise perceived in the land of the whites. They styled the route the Great Medicine Road of the Whites.'"[3]

The settlement and development of the west produced many changes in the old Trail as known to Frémont, the "Pathfinder," and other early western travelers and explorers. In February, 1859, the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad was completed to St. Joseph, Missouri, and in 1861 it was extended to Atchison, Kansas. During the late '50s and early '60s navigation on the Missouri attained its greatest volume and towns sprung up as by magic along its banks. Each progressive step in the march of western development was reflected in the history of the old highway. Branch lines shot out from Fort Leavenworth, Atchison, St. Joseph, Brownville, Nebraska City, and other Missouri river towns, all converging upon the old trail and intersecting it before it reached Fort Kearney. The most noted of these has already been mentioned as starting from the vicinity of Council Bluffs and threading the valley of the Platte, north of the river, —the avant courier of the Union Pacific Railroad. The non-Mormon travel along this route, though bound to California, Oregon, and the northwest, followed it to Shinn's Ferry or a ford in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Kearney, and, crossing the Platte, continued on up the south side of the river, traversing the Independence trail. As time developed the necessity for diverting travel to the gold fields of Colorado and other sections of the great west, branch lines led away from the Oregon Trail, to Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Denver, and the southwest, as far even as Santa Fe, but until the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, in 1867-1868, the Oregon Trail, its cutoffs and numerous branches leading into and away from it, was the sole connected line of travel across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, and the usual means of communication throughout the great plains and Rocky mountain regions of the west, as well as the entire Pacific slope.

No statistics are available which in brief compass illustrate the tremendous importance of the great trail, considered as a unit. The following news item taken from the Dakota City *Herald*, under date of August 13, 1859, affords some evidence of the volume of travel and emigration on the route from Council Bluffs and Omaha up the Platte valley, at that early date:

"The secretary of the Columbus Ferry Company at Loup Fork informs the Omaha *Nebraskian* that the emigration across the plains up to June 25th was as follows: 1807 wagons, 20 hand carts, 5401 men, 434 women, 480 children, 1610 horses, 406 mules, 610 oxen, 6000 sheep, had crossed this ferry at that point. This statement includes no portion of the

[3] *Hist. Am. Fur Trade*, vol. i, Chitenden.

Mormon emigration, but embraces merely California, Oregon and Pike's Peak emigrants and their stock, all going westward. The returning emigration crosses at Shinn's Ferry, some fifteen miles below the confluence of the Loup Fork with the Platte. Many of the outward-bound emigrants also crossed at the same point, so it is probable that not less than 4000 wagons have passed over the Military Road westward from this city since the 20th of March."

The reader will observe from the foregoing extract that the uses made of the old trail were many and varied. In 1859 the high tide of western travel and emigration had not been reached, but from that year forward to the completion of the Union Pacific Railway, it increased by leaps and bounds. From a dim, narrow roadway, traveled at wide intervals by exploring, surveying, and military expeditions and thin lines of emigration, it expanded under its increasing usefulness into a broad, smooth, hard-beaten highway of great national interest and importance. Unlike the Appian Way and other great roads centering in Rome, the products of military necessity and ambition, the Oregon Trail in all its branches and ramifications was wholly devoted to the arts of peace and the activities of a young and mighty nation.

As a route of emigration its value and usefulness can never be exaggerated. Long before a transcontinental railway was projected, when in fact railway construction was yet in its infancy in this country, it was the means of peopling Utah, Oregon, California, Colorado, and other sections of the great west. Over it travel was maintained across the continent of North America. Travelers bent on business or pleasure and persons engaged in the diplomatic service of foreign countries freely made use of this great thoroughfare, to escape the long, tedious, and often dangerous sea voyage around Cape Horn, to and from the Orient.

The military occupation of the west by our government, and the tremendous emigration that followed it, gave rise to a freighting industry by mule and ox trains unlike anything previously known in our history, and this formed a most conspicuous element in the usefulness of the trail. No statistics are available to give an adequate idea of the tremendous volume of goods annually carried across the plains when this industry was at its maximum. As early as 1861, Nebraska City, by becoming the headquarters of the firm of Russell, Majors & Waddell, contractors for the transportation of government freight to the far west, grew quickly into one of the principal outfitting towns on the Missouri river. A census of the freighting business from that point taken for the year 1865 showed the following figures: Men employed in the movement of grain and merchandise westward, 8,385; wagons, 7,365; mules, 7,231; oxen, 50,712; freight transported, 31,445,428 pounds. When it is considered that Nebraska City was only one of several great outfitting stations on the Oregon Trail and its branches, that most of the freight was carried long distances over plain and mountain, across unbridged streams, in huge, creaking, linch-pin, thick-tired, canvas-covered wagons, capable of transporting from seven to ten tons of freight and drawn by from five to ten yoke of oxen or more, traveling at the rate of two miles an hour and requiring months to make the round trip, the gigantic proportions of this industry must be apparent to the dullest mind.

. . . . . .

The following description of Nebraska City in its pristine days as a terminus of freight traffic is taken from a letter written from near there in 1866, and is fairly representative of the scenes constantly occurring at all Missouri river outfitting towns for freight traffic across the plains:

The streets are not filled with carriages and gay equipages, though I saw some elegant turnouts, but there are huge freight wagons on every street, at every corner; there are hundreds of oxen and mules attached to them. Often ten yoke of oxen to a wagon, — six span, oftener four, of mules driven with one line. There is heard the lumbering of these "prairie schooners," the bellowing of oxen, braying of mules, cracking of long whips, which for me is a show of itself, to see the dexterity with which the drivers use them. There is the hallowing, yelling of teamsters, mingled

Freighting Scenes Along the Oregon Trail

The lower view represents the freighting train known as "Bull of the Woods," owned by Alexander and James Carlisle. From a photograph taken on Main street, Nebraska City, looking east from Sixth street, and loaned by Mr. O. C. Morton. This train consisted of twenty-five wagons with six mules to each wagon, and was considered one of the finest outfits known to freighters.

with more oaths than I have ever heard before in all my life together. Everything is high in this prairie land. My mother sells some of her butter for sixty cents per pound, none less than fifty cents, and that at home; cheese thirty cents and thirty-five cents; and so on with everything. The great amount of travel on the road half a mile from us makes all the market one needs at present. Trains passing with thirty wagons (twenty-four or eighteen, those being the usual numbers) are or have been until recently of almost daily occurrence, — some going to the mountains, others going to the states. It is also the stage route (or one) of Ben Holliday's express through to California, so that we have a daily mail one day from the west, the next from the east. It seems odd in such a new country, so devoid of almost everything civilized, to see the coach daily, going and coming.

. . . . . .

As a highway for the Overland stage from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast the great trail performed a most interesting and a most important service to the American people. Light Concord coaches were usually required for this service, and with the rapid growth of the west, the business ultimately attained huge proportions.

From 1850 down to the date when the old trail ultimately fell into disuse the overland stage was largely devoted to the carrying of the mails. The carrying of passengers and express packages also formed important items of its receipts. At first monthly trips were made, then semi-monthly, and finally — when the overland-stage business fell into the hands of Ben Holliday, who in many respects was one of the most remarkable men of his day — a stage service was evolved in which stages ran daily on fast and schedule time from Atchison, Kansas, to Placerville, California, in the remarkably short period of seventeen days, carrying mail and passengers each way.

An important incident to the old highway was the pony express, a movement which originated, in 1860, with William H. Russell, of Leavenworth, Kansas. It was a system of mounted couriers, wholly devoted to the private transmission of letter-mail, newspapers, telegraph messages, important government dispatches, bank drafts, and the like. It followed the St. Joseph branch of the Overland trail to Kennekuk, forty-four miles out from the Missouri river, where it intersected the main Independence line, and thereafter followed the old trail to Fort Kearney, thence on up the Platte valley to old Julesburg, where it forded the South Fork, followed the old Mormon trail up Lodge Pole creek, thence through the Great South Pass to Fort Bridger, Salt Lake City, and on to Sacramento, where it connected with navigation on the Sacramento river to San Francisco. The trip from its eastern terminus, at St. Joseph, Missouri, to its western terminus usually required eight days, and the return trip the same number of days. It was inaugurated at five o'clock in the afternoon of the 3d day of April, 1860, with many demonstrations of satisfaction throughout its entire course across mountain and plain. At San Francisco cannon were fired, flags displayed, speeches made, flowers distributed, and at both terminals crowds gathered to witness the departure of the first daring rider of the pony express. The horses selected for this service were hardy and fleet plains stock. The equipment consisted of a strong, well made saddle and a mail sack of the old-fashioned saddle-bags pattern, and an emergency lariat. The rider was booted and spurred. A leathern holster on either side of the pommel of his saddle carried a navy revolver. No time was wasted at the stations where changes of horses, and often of riders, were made. Usually the rider found his mount already groomed, saddled, and held by an assistant awaiting his arrival. He had only to change his holsters and mail bags from one saddle to the other, mount the fresh steed and away with the speed of the winds. At stations where riders were relieved, the fresh rider would be awaiting the incoming man, mounted and ready to fly on his journey.

This service lasted approximately eighteen months and was discontinued only when the telegraph line, of which it was the *avant courier,* reached Fort Kearney, in 1861. It was by far the most picturesque feature of overland travel along the wonderful old trail, and no other business venture of the great plains region had a more daring or romantic history

or left a more lasting impression than the pony express.

This storied old highway was reached from Beatrice and other sections of Gage county mainly by the Brownville road. This branch of the overland trail crossed the Big Blue river at the old Market street ford; it then swung northward to the river, and, taking the course of the present highway to a point about two miles west of the Cub creek crossing, it left the creek and started on its course across the high prairie on what was known as Twenty-two Mile Ridge; it struck Little Sandy creek river, near where the town of Alexandria is now located. Four miles above Hackney's was the Kiowa stage station; six miles beyond the Kiowa was the Oak Grove ranch, located near the dreaded Narrows, a point on the Little Blue river where the prairies terminated abruptly in low, steep bluffs, forcing the travel on a narrow strip of land along the river bank. A little east of the Narrows was the ranch of the ill-fated Ubanks family. Comstock's ranch was a short distance above this pass, and beyond Comstock's was the Little Blue stage station. Here the trail left the river and struck

One Type of the Famous Concord Stage-coach

at Thomas Helvey's ranch, and a mile further on to the west, at Shumway's ranch, it intersected the main trail. Three miles west of Shumway's, at Patterson's ranch, Big Sandy was crossed, and the traveler entered the stirring scenes and pulsing life of the great national highway.

At Big Sandy, besides Patterson's ranch, there were Slaughter's ranch, D. C. Jenkins' ranch, George Weisel's ranch, and some others. In addition to these there was a stage station, kept by Edward Farrell. From Farrell's station on the Big Sandy, the trail, a broad, smooth highway, led almost due west across Eighteen Mile Ridge, past Thompson's stage station, twelve miles out from Farrell's, to the great Hackney ranch, on the Little Blue out across the Nine Mile Ridge. At Buffalo ranch it returned to the Little Blue and continued up that stream eight miles to Pawnee ranch. Four miles beyond was Spring ranch, an overland stage station, where the trail climbed a long, steep hill to the high prairie, and led on to Thirty-two Mile Creek, a station located on a little stream of that name, eight miles southwest of the present city of Hastings. From Thirty-two Mile Creek it ran in a northwesterly direction through a collection of low, rounded sand hills to the Platte river bottom, where it intersected the Nebraska City branch of the trail at Hook's ranch, nine miles this way from Fort Kearney.

From almost any point in Gage county a market could be found for farm produce in two

or three days' travel, at the ranches and stations along the old trail. Money was abundant, prices good, and the excitement, romance, and thrilling adventure afforded by the trail was an added inducement to draw the pioneers and their sons to this traffic.

A person who now travels by rail or motors over country roads from any portion of southeastern Nebraska to the site of old Fort Kearney, in the general direction held by the Oregon Trail or its branches, encounters evidence of wealth and refinement on every hand. He sees a succession of thriving cities and villages, connected by rail, telegraph, and telephone lines. Beautiful homes, smiling countrysides, and a happy, intelligent, and thriving population greet him on every hand. To such a traveler the condition of life which this same section of country presented along the old continental cross-country highway from about 1850 to 1867 would be impossible of visualization. To the traveler in those heroic days the only signs of civilized life were the old highway and its ever shifting kaleidoscopic population. The road itself constituted not the least wonderful of the objects which he encountered. It led across the naked prairie from the Missouri river, — wide, hard, and bare. It followed no definite course, unless a generally northwesterly direction could be so designated. It crossed bridgeless streams, traversed localities of great natural beauty and vast prairie meadows where millions of buffalo, elk, deer, and antelope found abundant pasturage during the greater portion of the year. On either side, stretching away in all directions, was the uninhabited and apparently limitless prairie. The few stage stations and ranches that marked its course served to emphasize the emptiness and desolation of the country through which it passed.

This great thoroughfare was traveled by as heterogeneous a mass of people as could be found anywhere in the world, — merchants, capitalists, freighters, prospectors, miners, hunters, trappers, traders, soldiers, Indians, emigrants, Mormons, gamblers, adventurers, pleasure-seekers, tourists, and the representatives of foreign nations, — passing from east to west or from west to east, all in teeming, restless activity. From the top of a Concord stage-coach, drawn by three span of horses selected for this service on account of their speed and endurance, and rushing ahead on schedule time at the rate of ten or more miles per hour, pausing at the stations only long enough to change jaded for fresh teams, the traveler might go for days without being out of sight of long trains of huge wagons drawn slowly by from six to ten yoke of oxen or half as many mules.

The pioneers either hauled their produce to the ranches or stations on the trail or sold at home, at remunerative prices, to those who were regularly engaged in freighting along the trail. Among these were Samuel Jones and his son William R. Jones, Peter Hanna, John Dunbar, Jefferson B. Weston, Joseph Saunders, David Kilpatrick, Nathan Blakely, William Blakely, Thomas and Joseph Kline, Volney Whitmore, George Whitmore, M. C. Butler, J. W. Kelly, Gilbert T. Loomis, Alvah Ayers, and many others whose names are not readily recalled. The ranches along the old trail were kept by a fearless class of frontiersmen, whose business it was to supply the freighters, soldiers, stage-drivers, emigrants, and travelers with provender for their stock, and for themselves food and drink, — quite often *drink*. Amongst the Gage county people who were engaged from time to time in the ranching and stage-driving business were Albert Holliday, who for many years kept the Hackney ranch; Charles N. Emery, first a stage-driver and then a keeper of Pawnee and other ranches; Jim Bainter; "Big" Fred and "Little" Fred Roper; Joseph B. Roper; Joseph Milligan; William E. Mudge; William Hess; Asa and John Latham; Robert Emery; Carl Emery; John Gilbert; Ray Grayson; William Blakely, and George Hurlburt.

This storied highway is now a thing of the past. The part it played in the settlement and development of the great west may never be fully understood or rightly appreciated. Over the greater part of the distance traversed by it

there is left scarcely a trace. In a few years there will be none who could mark its course. But as long as men note and love the history of their country, this one fact must always remain, — for nearly three score years, beginning with the Astorians in 1811, this great national thoroughfare, with its branches and ramifications, was to the plains and Rocky mountain regions of our country, the far west and northwest, what the Union Pacific Railroad, of which it was the precurser, became on its completion over half a century ago.

There are highways born, the old roads die —
Can you read what once they said,
From the way-worn ditch and the sunflower clump,
And the needs of folk long dead? [4]

[4] From *Barbed Wire and Other Poems*, by Edwin Ford Piper (1917).

CHAPTER XI

FIRST ACTUAL SETTLERS

Otoe and Missouri Tribes of Indians — History — Reservation — Relation of Pioneers to Indians — Plans to sell Reservation — Sale — Report of Lewis and Clark — Indian Village — Removal of Indian Tribes —

The first actual settlers of Gage county were of course the Otoe and Missouri consolidated tribes of Indians. The treaty under which all their lands in the territory of Nebraska were ceded to the United States, except their reservation on the Big Blue river, was made March 15, 1854, and became immediately effective. Section 2 of the treaty required the Indians to vacate the ceded lands and remove to their new reservation "as soon after the United States shall make the necessary provision for fulfilling the stipulations of this instrument as they can conveniently arrange their affairs, and not exceeding one year after such provision is made."

The report of George Heppner, the government agent for these Indians, to the Indian Bureau at Washington, under date of November 1, 1855, conveys the information that they were then occupying their new reservation, in what afterward became Gage county, and had raised a crop of corn for their support during that season. According to this report there were at that time approximately six hundred Indians on the reservation, which was doubtless their full tribal strength.

When first known to white men, the Otoe tribe of Indians were one of a group of three related tribes, the others being the Iowa and Missouri tribes of Indians, all speaking practically the same language. They appear never to have been numerous, like the Pawnees, Comanches, and some others of the plains Indians. Their history as far as known contains little more than a struggle to defend themselves against their enemies, until they came virtually under the domination of the white man. They are first mentioned by some of the French-Canadian traders, trappers, and missionaries. Father Marquette, in 1673, apparently locates them on his autograph map about the upper Des Moines river, and Membre, the companion of LaSalle, in 1680, places the tribe one hundred and thirty leagues west of the Illinois, on the Wisconsin. In 1700, Iberville, a French-Canadian explorer and the first governor of the province of Louisiana, said that the Otoe and Iowa Indians were with the Omahas. Charlevoix, in 1721, found them on the east side of the Missouri, above the Kansa tribe, on the west side of the Missouri. In 1761 they were located on the Platte, between its mouth and the Pawnee country to the west. Here they were found by Lewis and Clark in 1804, on the south side of the river, twenty miles from its mouth; but the explorers record the fact that they had formerly lived twenty miles above the mouth of the Platte on the south bank of the Missouri river. Having been greatly diminished by war and smallpox, in 1817 they migrated to the neighborhood of the Pawnees, near the city of Fremont, under whose protection they seem to have lived for a time, and were here incorporated with the Missouris. For some time prior to 1841 the two tribes were located near the mouth of the Platte river, in the neighborhood of Bellevue. Later they removed to a reservation near Nebraska City, which in the treaty bearing date of March

15, 1854, was ceded to the United States, together with all lands in Nebraska territory save and except a reservation lying partly in the southern portion of Gage county. As before stated, Article 2 of the treaty promised that they would vacate the ceded territory and remove to the lands reserved for them by it "as soon after the United States shall make the necessary provision for fulfilling the stipulations of this instrument as they can conveniently arrange their affairs, and not to exceed one year after such provision is made."

This reservation comprised a fine body of

AR-KA-KE-TA (tribal guardian)
Head chief of the Otoes

land, ten miles north and south and twenty-five miles east and west. It extended two miles south of the state line its full length, into Washington and Marshall counties, Kansas. North of the state line it extended two and three-fourths miles into Jefferson county. That portion of it which lay in Gage county was a strip eight miles in width and twenty-two and one-half miles in length, east and west. Glenwood, Paddock, and Barneston townships lay wholly within the reservation, also the greater part of Liberty township; it included the two southern tiers of sections in Elm, Sicily, Wymore, and Island Grove townships to within two and one-fourth miles of the county line on the east. Altogether it comprised 250 sections, 160,000 acres, of which 126,720 acres lay in Gage county. It was well watered and timbered. The Big Blue river flowed through it in a southeasterly direction, across Wymore and Barneston townships, while Big Indian creek drained the northern and western portions and entered the river at Wymore. East of the river Wolf, Plum, and Mission creeks with their tributaries drained the land and supplied in great abundance water for grazing purposes. Fine groves of timber lined all the streams. Hunting and fishing offered both sport and sustenance to the noble red man and his progeny, while to the hoes, which a wise and beneficent government placed in the hands of the squaws, the rich alluvial soils of the creek and river valleys responded with bountiful crops of Indian corn, melons, pumpkins, beans, and other field and garden produce.

The pioneers profited considerably from the existence of this large reservation within the county. The United States government from the first had maintained on the reservation, at the junction of Plum creek and the river, a steam saw and grist mill where lumber of all dimensions was manufactured from native timber and where corn meal and graham flour could be ground. Here also was a blacksmith shop which, in addition to the Indian blacksmithing, did custom work. From the surrounding country for miles settlers hauled their saw logs and grain to this primitive mill and hauled back lumber, slabs, meal, and cracked wheat or graham flour. The mill was afterward supplied with proper machinery for making bolted flour, and then became one of the early milling points of our county.

Considerable trade, mainly barter, was carried on between the pioneers and the Indians, in which beaded moccasins, buffalo robes, dried or jerked buffalo meat, other products of the chase, and handiwork of the squaws, as well as blankets, calicoes, and other articles issued annually by the Great Father at Washington to his dusky children, were exchanged for the hogs, cattle, sheep, and cured meats of the settlers.

The personal relations between the Indians and the white settlers were ideally friendly.

There were many members of these tribes that in point of worth of character measured up to the best traditions of the North American Indian. They were as a rule scrupulously honest, returning what they borrowed from their white neighbors and friends, and discharging punctually their financial obligations. They were not pilferers or thieves. They were inclined to overstay a welcome and were great beggars for something to eat. In their domestic relations they apparently led well ordered and decent lives.

In those days of primitive life the white man rarely turned his eyes toward the landed possessions of his Indian neighbors. Government land was cheap and abundant, to be had almost for the asking. No man needed to want for land; he could take it by paying a trifling fee to the officers of the government land office at Brownville. But on the admission of Nebraska into the Union as a state; on the entry by college scrip, in 1867, of the finest portions of the public domain in Gage county, and the coming of the railroads, the situation completely changed. Land began to have a value. Soon it was impossible for a man to be land poor. A homesteader who had been accustomed to regard his quarter section more as a liability than an asset, suddenly found that it possessed a cash value in the open market; that when pressed for money, by resorting to an invention known as a mortgage, he could actually borrow a few hundred dollars on his homestead. Undreamed of opulence descended upon him, and the poor homesteader, whose years had been spent in poverty and want, who was often compelled to stay because too poor to leave, suddenly found his broad acres a source of wealth, as wonderful to him as the lamp of Aladdin or the purse and hat of Fortunatus.

Under these circumstances the lands of the Indian reservation became appreciably valuable in the eyes of the white inhabitants of the two states where it lay, and in the eyes of the Indians themselves and their guardian, the United States government. Great pressure was brought, beginning with the early '70s, on the representatives of both Kansas and Nebraska in congress, to effect the sale of the reservation and convert it into a source of wealth for the white man.

In January, 1875, Hon. Algernon S. Paddock, then a citizen of Gage county, was elected to the United States senate from Nebraska. Soon after taking his seat he introduced a bill providing for the sale of that portion of the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation lying west of range VII, and prescribing a method for conducting the sale of such lands. This act, by and with the consent of the Indians, became a law August 15, 1876, and the lands affected by it, constituting a little more than one-half of the reservation, were appraised and sold for cash to active settlers at the appraised value, in tracts not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to any one purchaser. They attracted a fine class of settlers, and were soon disposed of at an average price of about three dollars and fifty cents per acre. With interest on deferred payments this netted the Indians over two hundred thousand dollars.

The sale of this land, which had hitherto produced nothing to its owners and which they regarded as of but little value, for practically five hundred dollars per capita, served only to whet the appetite of the Indians for that sort of tangible wealth which always bears the dollar mark. The successful outcome of this sale prompted further agitation in congress on the part of the representatives of both Kansas and Nebraska to put the remainder of the reservation on the market, and on March 3, 1881, a bill was passed by congress for that purpose, which also prescribed a method of conducting a sale of the lands affected by it. The government having purchased in the Indian territory, now Oklahoma, 129,113 acres of land as a reservation for the Otoe and Missouri Indians, immediately after the passage of this act, the remainder of their lands, after appraisement, were placed on sale, in 1883. Under the orders of the secretary of the interior, the appraisement was ignored and the lands sold at public auction for cash to the highest bidder, but to actual settlers only, and in tracts not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres to any one purchaser. The exact figures

are not at hand to show the amount of this sale, but the lands brought approximately twelve and one-half dollars per acre, amounting approximately to the sum of one million dollars. In addition to removing an unassimilable element from the population of our county, these two sales brought within its jurisdiction and added to its taxable wealth a splendid body of land which in process of time has become very valuable, and thickly populated by a splendid class of American citizens.

Tradition aside, the Otoe Indians were never warlike or aggressive. They were tillers of the soil, traders and trappers, and were usually found in the neighborhood of some more powerful tribe whose protection they sought.

The Missouri tribe of Indians, who derived their name from the great river on whose shores they dwelt for many years, after having been attacked and almost annihilated, in 1720, by the Sac and Fox tribes with their allies, were dispersed. Five or six lodges joined the Osage, two or three took refuge with the Kansa, and the remainder amalgamated with the Otoe Indians. Lewis and Clark spoke of the Otoes and Missouris whom they saw in the neighborhood of Council Bluffs, as almost naked, having in fact no covering except a sort of breech-cloth and a loose blanket or painted buffalo robe thrown about their shoulders. Their villages consisted of large earthen lodges, but when traveling they found shelter in skin tepees.

The permanent Indian village was located in Barneston township, mainly on the site of the present village of Barneston. At this point there was and still is a splendid spring of purest water, similar in quality to the well known Zimmerman spring from which the city of Beatrice draws its entire supply of water. Near this spring were the agency building, the school house, Indian tepees and burial place. To the south of the village, across Plum creek, at the point where that stream enters the Big Blue river, on the small tract of level land adjacent to both these streams, were the blacksmith shop, the steam saw and grist mill belonging to the Indians, and the residences of several of the employes of the government upon the reservation. The Indians maintained an unbroken residence in this location from April, 1855, to October 5, 1882, — more than twenty-seven years, — during which period of time, under the care and tutelage of the government of the United States, its agents and employes, including several teachers, they made considerable progress in general education and in a knowledge of the useful industries of civilized life. After ceding their lands here to the United States, they removed from our county to Oklahoma, in 1882. The last glance afforded us of the aboriginal inhabitants of Gage county is presented in the following extract from the report of their agent. Jacob V. Carter, to the bureau of Indian affairs, under date of August 20, 1882. It reads in part as follows:

Soon after forwarding my last annual report dated at Otoe Agency, Nebraska, I received orders to remove the Indians in my charge from that agency to their new location in Indian Territory. Agreeable to said order, I began the work of removal at once. On September 22, 1882, I started the cattle herd, numbering two hundred and twenty-four head, in charge of competent herders, for the territory. On the 5th of October following, having completed my arrangements, I pulled out of the Agency with a train which consisted of seventy wagons and about two hundred ponies. We arrived at Red Rock on the 23d day of the same month, nineteen days out, traveling nearly three hundred miles without sustaining any loss or mishap by the way. The herd arrived on the 16th, in good condition and without loss.

It is generally understood that these Indian tribes had been greatly decimated by death, induced partly by sloth and excess wealth, until their numbers were reduced to somewhat over five hundred, in 1881, Their number was estimated as twelve hundred in 1833. Burroughs gave in 1859 their number as nine hundred; the report of the Indian bureau at Washington for 1843 designates nine hundred and thirty-one. In 1862 the two tribes numbered seven hundred and eight; in 1867, five hundred and eleven; in 1877, four hundred and fifty-seven; in 1886, three hundred and thirty-four; and in 1906 three hundred and ninety.

CHAPTER XII

NARRATIVE OF MAJOR ALBERT LAMBORN GREEN

[When Ulysses Grant became president of the United States in 1869 he adopted the policy of placing the Indian wards of the nation as far as possible in the hands of the Quakers, a policy to which he rigorously adhered during hte eight years of his incumbency in office. In June, 1869, Albert Lamborn Green, of Philadelphia, a young man affiliated with that sect, was placed in charge of the Otoe and Missouri tribes of Indians in Gage county, as the agent of the government and with the rank and title of a major in the federal army. Major Green served in that capacity several years, and became familiar with the history of these Indian tribes as well as with their manners and customs. At the request of the author of this book he has prepared the following reminiscent narrative illustrated by pen drawings prepared by himself. Those who may feel an interest in these aboriginal inhabitants of our county cannot fail to read with keen pleasure the following context:]

Man's earliest weapon was a stone, and later a rudely chipped flint, the acquisition and use of which ushered in the paleolithic age, — the initial period of all human culture and progress. It was during this earliest stage of human advancement that the region now embraced within the limits of Gage county, received its first inhabitants, — a race whose weapons and utensils, rudely chipped from the flints of the locality, still testify to its having existed. In the course of many generations, as greater skill became acquired, the paleolithic age of roughly chipped flints gradually merged into a neolithic age of finely wrought arrowheads and carefully finished weapons and utensils of stone. Such an age has likewise left its scattered memorials throughout the region. Whether both periods pertain to an identical race may never be known, but archeologists regard it as almost a certainty that the period of roughly chipped flints long antedates the Pawnee occupancy of the region. To the period of Pawnee occupancy may confidently be attributed all fragments of pottery and possibly all relics of a neolithic character. Prof. E. E. Blackman has definitely located the sites of at least five prehistoric villages within the county, the most ancient of which undoubtedly belonged to the paleolithic age. One that is known to have been occupied by the Pawnees long after the invasion of Quivira by the French traders and explorers, is located about a mile north of Blue Springs. Another, that is evidently of much greater antiquity, has been found a short distance south of Holmesville. Other village sites, both east and west of the river, bear ample evidence of the fact, that, for untold centuries, the valley of the Blue has been the abode of man.

It may have been with a people whose ancestors were of the older, or paleolithic, period, that Coronado met in 1541, and of whom Castaneda, the chronicler of the expedition, has left us so graphic a description. It is from Castaneda's account, which historians have generally regarded as authentic, that we are led to believe that Coronado's horsemen crossed the Kansas river near the mouth of the Blue and followed the course of the latter stream northward. No other river or stream flowing into the Kansas so accurately meets the description given, and the fact that the principal villages and trails or routes of travel were undoubtedly along its course lends confirmatory evidence to this

conclusion. Coronado was in search of cities and towns, and the great flint deposits near the present side of Wymore had attracted to their vicinity a population whose village sites are still traceable. Thus we may safely assume that Castaneda's graphic description of the people met with, applied to the aboriginal inhabitants of this vicinity, hence a few quotations from his narrative may be in place. He says "they are very intelligent," and "able to make themselves so well understood by signs that there was no need of an interpreter"; he speaks of them as "a kind people and faithful friends"; he tells us that "the women are well made and modest," that "they cover the whole body and wear shoes and buskins made of tanned skins"; he tells us that when away from their villages, they travel with troops of dogs loaded with poles and having Moorish pack-saddles with girths, and that when the loads become disarranged the dogs howl, calling some one to fix them aright." Two hundred years after this account was written this region was still a part of that mystical Quivira described by Spanish writers as bounded on the east by the "Mountains of the Sun" — now known as the Missouri river bluffs. At that time the existence of the Blue river had become so well known to the French traders and explorers that when, in 1795, information was being obtained for the preparation of an up-to-date map of North America, showing all the latest discoveries, the Blue river was correctly located and named, at least so far as its course through Quivira was concerned, but the geographer evidently lacked information as to its further course and disposed of the problem by causing it to empty into the gulf of California. The Otoe name of the river was Nee-haun-chee, but the Indians sometimes referred to it as Nee-haun-chee-toe, Big Blue river.

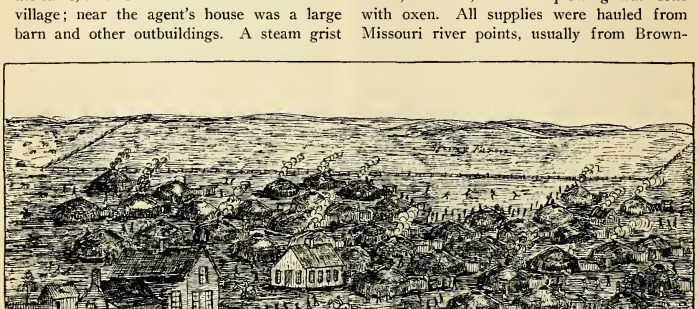
This ancient map locates the "Otter Nation," probably intending it for the "Ottoe Nation"— that being an old-time way of spelling the name of the Otoe tribe. At the time the map was made the Pawnees occupied the valley of the Blue as well as that of the Republican, while the Otoes dwelt near the mouth of the Nebraithka (Platte) and included in their trapping grounds the Nemahas and bluff region of the Missouri as far south as the Great Nemaha. Tradition informs us that prior to about 1720 the natives of this region possessed no horses, their only domestic animal being a tamed descendant of the large gray wolf. But about that time an expedition set out from Santa Fe to conquer the Otoes and take possession of the region for the king of Spain, and thus head off the French, whose activities as traders and explorers had extended far up the Espiritu Santo, and Nebraithka rivers. It appears that the Spanish had learned of a chronic state of warfare existing between the Osages, who lived south of the Kansas river, and the tribe they were advancing against, and decided, if possible, to engage their assistance. As the Spanish cavalcade journeyed toward the Osage domain, it met a war party of Missouris, and, mistaking them for Osages, informed them of the purpose they had in view, which was nothing less than to surprise and destroy their own kindred. The Missouris, quick to perceive the blunder the Spaniards had made, conferred together and soon informed the Spaniards that they really were Osages returning from a war against the Otoes and that they would willingly accompany them on a war-path against their enemy. Then, secretly dispatching a courier to the Otoe village to acquaint their friends as to the situation, they conducted the Spanish party thither by slow stages, giving them to understand that they were conducting them to the town of the Osages, where they would be entertained before proceeding against their common enemy. It was customary with the Spaniards on all warlike expeditions to have a friar along to look after their spiritual interests and to act as a chronicler of their doings, and we are indebted to a friar's letter now in the archives of Spain for most of the particulars here given. The Otoes, posing as Osages at the village, received the visitors with a great show of hospitality. The interval that had elapsed between the arrival of the courier and that of the Spaniards had been employed in assembling warriors from every

available source; even a band of their hereditary enemies, the Pawnees had arrived, probably from the valley of the Blue. After a night spent in feasting and dancing, the assembled warriors fell upon the drowsy unsuspecting Spaniards and killed them all, except a monk. The horses and equipage of the invaders were secured by the Indians, and it afterward devolved upon the monk to teach them how to ride — an art in which they soon became adepts. Tradition informs us that the monk afterwards escaped on the fleetest of the animals. Thus it was that in the course of time ponies superseded dogs as beasts of burden in this region. As the pony herds multiplied they came to be regarded as synonymns of wealth. The war-path became no longer a mad adventure to secure scalps that had no economic value, for an enemy's ponies were worth more than his scalp, and it usually required as much risk and bravery to secure the one as the other. The Pawnees probably occupied the valley of the Blue until about the year 1825, when they went north to join their kindred whom the Delawares had driven from the valley of the Republican. During their occupancy of this region their principal village was situated about a mile north of the present town of Blue Springs, while their winter tepees were scattered up and down the river. The enmity between the Otoes and the Pawnees was hereditary; surprise attacks and bloody reprisals had kept alive a hatred that had been nursed from generation to generation. The smoke-cured scalps of Pawnee warriors, hardened and faded with age, still adorned the Otoe medicine bags long after they had settled on their reservation.

The last attack made upon the village above mentioned by Otoe warriors occurred only a few years prior to the Pawnees' removal. A large band of Otoes were then encamped near the mouth of the Nemaha, and had cunningly timed their attack to take place at day-break of the day succeeding that on which the young braves of the Pawnee village had started on a buffalo hunt. The Otoes, bent on securing scalps as well as plunder, had killed a number of people and caused a frightful uproar and panic in the village, when a brave from the hunting party — which had encamped the evening before near the head of Indian creek — came riding into the village; he was at once killed by the Otoes, who also wounded the pony and frightened it so that it galloped back towards the camp; its return, riderless and wounded, caused great alarm and called for instant action. All the braves of the hunting party, mounted on their swiftest ponies, started at once for the home village, on reaching which, they saw at a glance what had occurred. The enemy had left, but the avengers were not long in striking their trail, which was swiftly followed; they were overtaken in a large draw near the east side of what is now Island Grove township, — a spot that was pointed out to the writer by old men of the Otoe tribe who related incidents connected with the affair as handed down to them. A fierce battle ensued — during which no quarter was given or asked. The Otoes, about thirty in number, were completely surrounded and fought desperately, but were outnumbered two to one; only one was permitted to escape and report the fate of his companions; the wounded were scalped, and both dead and wounded were burned, the Pawnees having fired the tall sloughgrass that grew in the draw.

After the Pawnees left the Blue, which is supposed to have been about 1825, the Otoes included the Blue valley in their hunting and trapping circuit, and it was seldom that the tepee of an Otoe family, or perhaps a group of tepees, might not be found somewhere along the river's course. In 1854 a reservation, comprising two hundred and fifty square miles, the greater part of which is now included within the limits of Gage county, was set apart for the Otoes, they having ceded, for a consideration to be paid in the form of an annuity, all their lands south of the Platte, except said tract. Of the one hundred and sixty thousand acres comprised in the area reserved, considerably more than one hundred thousand acres were included within the limits of the county. The site selected for their village and the agent's residence was a sightly elevation about half a mile east of the river, where a spring,

that issued from a limestone ledge, afforded an ample supply of pure water. The town of Barneston now occupies a part of the site. A residence for the government agent was built about one hundred feet north of the spring. It consisted of a one and a half story frame with an ell on the rear, and contained in all six rooms with large basement. There was a latticed porch in front, with a balcony over the same, that commanded a view of the whole village; near the agent's house was a large barn and other outbuildings. A steam grist mill, saw mill, blacksmith shop, and residences for the various white employes, were located on Plum creek, about a mile from the agency. The main village consisted of about forty large earth-covered lodges of the type commonly used by tribes of Sioux origin. Each lodge was circular in form, with an entrance through a projecting passageway opening towards the east, and was usually not less than about forty feet in diameter, inside measurement. Usually several closely related families occupied a single lodge — each having a sleeping booth on a raised platform that extended around the inside space. All cooking was done at a fire of small logs that blazed in the center, the smoke escaping through a circular opening in the roof. There were also a few bark lodges of a type that were common among the Iowas and Sacs and Foxes, but they were of a less durable character than the Siouan type of habitation and were usually regarded as temporary. An agency farm of one hundred acres was broken out adjacent to the village. The white employes included a farmer, carpenter, blacksmith, miller, physician, teachers, etc. All plowing was done with oxen. All supplies were hauled from Missouri river points, usually from Brownville. A mission school, under Presbyterian auspices, was established near the reservation soon after the Indians removed there. It was established by the New York Home Mission Society of that denomination, on the north half of Section 1, township 1 south, range eight east, state of Kansas, which tract of three hundred and twenty acres the society had purchased, and on which it had caused to be erected a concrete building ninety by forty feet in size and three stories in height with an ell or wing two stories in height. The kitchen and dining room were in the latter and the school rooms and dormitories were in the main building. The buildings were about six miles from the agency and village, and about



Otoe Indian Village, 1869-1870

a mile and a quarter beyond the limits of the reservation. On May 10, 1857, the Rev. Daniel A. Murdock, with his wife, Prudence, and their seven children, arrived and assumed charge of the mission; three teachers were engaged, as were also a farmer, a carpenter, and a teamster, as well as two interpreters. It was the benevolent design of the society that the education of both sexes should combine industrial features. Soon after Mr. Murdock's arrival a conference was held with the chiefs, which resulted in an agreement on their part that they would promote the attendance of all children of a proper age, and in due time the school opened with an attendance of seventy-two, of whom only two were females. This was very disappointing, as accommodations had been provided for as many girls as boys. All pupils arrived almost in a state of nudity, and they were generously supplied with clothing at the expense of the society. Each day was dvided into periods of hours for school-room study, for out-door play, and for farm work, and thus all was progressing favorably when the time arrived for the tribe to start on its annual fall buffalo hunt. The chiefs and heads of families then visited the mission and urgently requested that the boys be permitted to accompany their parents on the hunt, a request that could not be granted, inasmuch as it would practically break up the school for an indefinite time. It was supposed that the Indians had acquiesced in this refusal, when suddenly, on a Sabbath afternoon, all the boys disappeared and were soon en route with their parents to the buffalo region. The mission people were not only discouraged — but also dismayed, for there was no certainty as to when the children would return, and it was possible that they might be absent the greater part of the winter. A few weeks after the departure of the children an incident occurred that doomed the school to failure, through fear and distrust on the part of the Indians, causing their refusal to permit their children to attend. This incident was nothing less than a raid of hostile Sioux Indians upon the Otoe village and the mission property, during the tribe's absence on the hunt. The circumstances of their raid convinced the Otoes that their children would have been massacred if they had not accompanied them on the hunt. It seems that the Sioux, finding that the village was deserted, as any who had not gone on the hunt had fled or secreted themselves, ransacked such caches as they were able to find and then proceeded to the mission, evidently in search of the children. Finding none in sight about the premises, the leader of the band ascended the hall staircase, leading to a dormitory, when he encountered J. E. Tanner, overseer of the farm, who seized him and threw him to the bottom of the stairs, where he landed very heavily. Being unsuccessful in finding any of the children, the two girls having been secreted by the teachers, the Sioux angrily departed. This was the last time that a Sioux war-party ever ventured within the limits of the county. The following spring, finding that the Indians still refused to allow their children to attend the school, Mr. Murdock resigned his charge and left the mission in charge of a Mr. Guthery, but after vainly trying to win the favourable regard and confidence of the Indians he too resigned, and the society, thoroughly discouraged, concluded to abandon as a hopeless job all attempts to educate and civilize the Otoes. The society sold the mission property, and the building was afterward partially destroyed by a tornado.

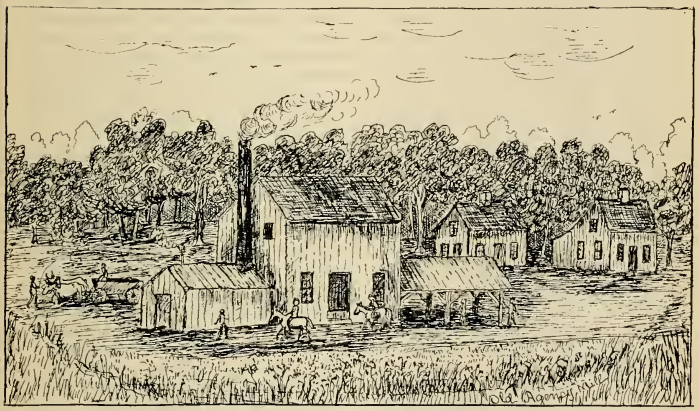
No further attempt was made toward educating the Otoe children until the summer of 1869, when the administration of agency affairs was placed in the hands of a representative of the Society of Friends, by President Grant. At that time the Otoes and Missouris were, with very few exceptions, "blanket" Indians. Most of the men, both young and old, were accustomed during warm weather, to discard even the blanket and wear only a clout or breechcloth. Hats were never worn, except by the interpreter and occasionally by an Indian policeman. It was customary to shave the scalp, leaving only a lock from the center of the crown backward, to which an eagle's feather was frequently attached. They used much vermillion, indigo, yellow ocher, and white clay in

facial decoration, and necklaces of woven horsehair curiously wrought with many colored bead-work by the Indian women, were worn by both sexes almost universally. The Indian women were very skilful in embroidering and decorating moccasins and leggins of deer-skin with bead and porcupine quill work. Most of the older men and women had their ears lacerated with holes, often not less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, not only through the lobe, but also through the rim of the ear from the top downward. Such holes facilitated loading the ears with large clusters of bobs, — an article of adornment made of block tin and sold by all Indian traders. It was usual for the women and girls to put a line of vermillion paint where their hair parted as well as to paint with vermillion the inside of their ears, thus adding to the fine effect of the silvery bobs. Eagle feathers, red-stone pipes, wampum, and beadwork were among their most highly prized possessions — single specimens of either being frequently valued at more than a fine horse.

While the earth-covered lodges of the village were cool and pleasant as summer habitations, they were cold and draughty in winter, the heat from the central fire escaping too readily through the great circular opening in the roof. For that reason it was customary for all to live in tepees during the winter, each family selecting a sheltered spot where water and dead wood were obtainable, and where, though often surrounded by banks of drifted snow, they existed with some degree of comfort until spring. The Indian ponies sought shelter in the timber, where they often depended on the bark of the cottonwood for sustenance. At the time the writer assumed management of the Indian agency, old Ar-ka-ke-ta was the head chief and the other chiefs were Big Soldier, Wan-na-ga-he, Medicine Horse (Shunga-mon-co), Buffalo, Pipe Stem, and Little Pipe. Ar-ka-ke-ta was a polygamist, and regarded his wives as valuable assets on account of their usefulness in cultivating the ground, providing fire-wood, and otherwise contributing to his support. He was opposed to *man*-ual labor, and was what might be termed an obstructionist, as he opposed all measures likely to promote the advancement of the tribe. In appearance he was decidedly unprepossessing and untidy; his usual facial adornment was a coating of soot mixed with mud, — which accorded well with a pessimistic state of mind that was natural to him. In 1867-1868 a party of the chiefs had visited Washington and negotiated a treaty, under the terms of which they agreed to sell the whole reservation of one hundred and sixty thousand acres at one dollar and fifty cents per acre, and Ar-ka-ke-ta posed on that occasion as a great man; the mud and soot disappeared from his face; the pessimist became an optimist, for, in his mental visions of the future, he saw his people rescued from the shackels that civilization was weaving around them, and mingling once more with kindered tribes in the far off Indian territory. When the writer arrived at the agency in June, 1869, the treaty was awaiting ratification by the senate and the tribe was consequently in a very restless condition. It soon became obvious to him that the conditions of the treaty were very prejudicial to the best interest of the Indians and that the consideration was entirely inadequate, being less than half of what might be considered a fair valuation of the land at that time. He accordingly commenced taking measures to defeat ratification, by calling a council and persuading the head men and a few of the chiefs to sign a remonstrance against ratification, and a repudiation of the action of the party that had visited Washington. This, together with a carefully prepared statement, was taken to Washington by a committee of Friends, and the result was the defeat of the treaty. The lands afterward sold for nearly ten times what they would have brought under the terms of the treaty.

In 1870, as Indian agent, I removed Ar-ka-ke-ta from the position of head chief and promoted Shunga-mon-co (Medicine Horse) to that position. This was done because of the old head chief's refusal to remove from the village and go to farming when a neat frame house and tract of choice land had been offered him. It was important that the head

chief should set an example to the young men of the tribe. Medicine Horse was a man of considerable influence and of very striking appearance, — a natural orator whose flowery figures of speech always elicited cries of how! how! how! from the assembled council. He agreed that if appointed head chief he would occupy a frame house, open a small farm, and set a good example to others. When the matter was first broached to him he declared, with pretended seriousness, that he had never done a stroke of work in his life, but he was immediately contradicted by old Chief Buffalo, who affirmed that he remembered seeing him, when a boy, carrying a kettle of water for his mother. At this accusation Medicine Horse pretended to be very angry declaring that the charge was utterly false. In the course of a few days Medicine Horse, assisted by others, was busily engaged in cutting saw-logs and in due time he and his family were ensconced in a neat frame dwelling built of newly sawed cottonwood lumber. Encouraged by his example others were also persuaded to cut logs, and the agency ox-teams were kept busy hauling them to the saw mill. During the years 1870, 1871 and 1872 probably twenty-five families had tried the experiment of living in houses and cooking on stoves — at least during the summer months — the lure of tepee life proving too strong on the approach of winter for some of them. Next in importance to Medicine Horse was Big Soldier, who, in face and figure, was a replica of an ancient Roman senator. By means of facial, labial, and finger movements, he was always able to converse without an interpreter, although he seldom used an English word. In many ways he was a very remarkable man, and a typical thoroughbred Otoe.



Old Agency Mill

Next in importance to the chiefs were the police, usually consisting of not more than fifteen individuals, chosen and appointed by the agent, whose duty it was to make arrests and otherwise assist in preserving order. They were commanded by a captain and lieutenant, and all provided with United States cavalry uniforms, which, however, were seldom worn except on important occasions, such as council meetings, and the execution of orders that required them to leave the reservation. All of the chiefs were

Otoes except Eagle, who was a Missouri Indian and the recognized "war chief" of the combined tribes; for many years it had been his province to act as commander on all buffalo hunts or other adventurous enterprises. He was a man of commanding and dignified appearance, and despite his great age was straight as an arrow and active as a young man. An incident that came under the writer's observation while accompanying the Indians on a buffalo hunt in 1870, illustrates how punctilious old Eagle was in strictly enforcing an ancient tribal rule that forbids the killing of a straggling buffalo before the camp has been pitched and the hunters are all ready to participate in a combined attack upon the great herd. In this case it was a young chief, Little Pipe, who was the offender. Eagle's face was stern and unrelenting as he ordered the heavy pony lash applied to the culprit's naked back, but before a blow descended the young chief's brother-in-law pushed him aside and presented his own back to receive vicariously the punishment that it was feared might degrade a chief. A bloody back soon showed that while the substitution had been accepted no mercy had been shown by the old war chief. This chief's name is worthy of a place in history as the last chieftain of that Indian nation whose name is more frequently mentioned than is that of any other aboriginal people on the continent; a people who have given name to one of earth's longest rivers and to one of our nation's greatest and richest commonwealths. In 1869 there were only about eighty Missouris living, and since that time the race has practically disappeared.

It was customary for the Otoes to go on a buffalo hunt twice a year, starting on the summer hunt about the last of June and getting back usually some time in August. Late in November they started on the winter hunt, the return from which was wholly dependent on weather conditions and their success in procuring hides and meat.. The depredations by hostile Indians on the Little Blue had made the settlers very distrustful of all Indians, and in order to allay fear on the part of the settlers, as well as to protect the Otoes from hostile Indians, the agent obtained from the war department an order directing General Augur to furnish an escort of cavalry for the winter hunt of 1869 as well as for the summer hunt of 1870. On the latter occasion the agent and a party of Philadelphians accompanied the expedition; they encountered a large herd of buffalo on the Sappa creek, in what is now Decatur county, Kansas.

It was an ancient Indian practice among the Nebraska Indians to make sugar from the sap of the box alder,—a practice that the Otoes continued after their settlement on the reservation. Formerly they used no tobacco, but smoked a mixture of dried sumac leaves and red-willow bark that had been in common use among all the western tribes probably for centuries. This old Quivira mixture, with sometimes a little tobacco added but oftener without any, was always adhered to by the Otoes and Missouris. The smoke produced had an acrid though not altogether disagreeable odor and was usually exhaled through the nostrils. The Indians obtained many fine fish from the Blue. They used no fishhooks, but shot the fish as they glided through the clear water, using only bow and arrows for the purpose. When heavy rains raised the water to flood tide they built seine-like barriers of willow poles and rods across the mouths of bayous and draws so that the receding waters left many fish, usually of large size, stranded behind such barriers. As long as the waters of the Blue remained clear the river abounded with gars, which often attained a large size; specimens four feet in length being frequently caught. Although the white settlers did not consider them edible, the Otoes regarded them very favourably as food. As the country gradually settled up and sediment from plowed fields found its way into the river, the gars disappeared. As late as 1869 a beaver was occasionally caught, and the commoner fur-bearing animals, such as mink, skunk, raccoon, etc., were plentiful, their furs being quite a source of profit to the Indians.. The abundance and variety of plums gathered by the Indian women were surprising. They varied greatly in quality and

size, a tree being occasionally found the fruit from which equalled the choicest sold in our markets to-day. There were still a few wild deer in the county as late as 1870, for at least two fawns were caught by the Indians during that year, and a large antlered buck was seen by the writer a few miles south of Beatrice.

The breaking of the prairie sod caused the total disappearance of a plant, once quite plentiful, whose bulbous root was eagerly sought for and highly prized as an article of food by the Otoes. In taste it slightly resembled a chestnut, and when divested of its thick, bark-like skin, it was as large as a hulled walnut. This plant grew to a height of from eighteen inches to two feet and had a branching top. The settlers made no use of it, but to the Indians travelling on the war-path or the hunt, when short of other food, it afforded security from starvation. It was an emergency food supply that the Indians had no doubt availed themselves of from time immemorial. The Otoes at all times relished it highly, even when they had other food in abundance. The destruction of the origional sod has caused the disappearance from the county of other plants equally as interesting, but probably of none that occupied as high a place in the Indian's estimation as did this one..

For more than a decade prior to 1869 no missionary efforts had been made or religious services held among the Otoes and Missouris. They had a religion, if such it might be called, that was not based on creed, bible, or confession of faith, and that had come down to them as an inheritance from a far off past. It was the religion of ancient Quivira. The Great Spirit, Wa-con-da, — the maker of all things was to them no far off deity dwelling in a far off heaven, but an ever present actuating and controlling force in nature and in all natural phenomena; they heard his voice in the thunder and saw the ashes of his wrath in the lightning; the tornado showed his might and power; the sunshine and the gentle rain, the ripened corn, and every beneficent gift of nature, bore evidence to his favor. How many white professors of religion, seated at a loaded table, commence eating without giving a thankful thought to the Great Giver of all good: — and yet we have seen an Otoe chief, seated with his family on the ground around a pot of succotash, a mixture of boiled corn and pumpkin, before dispensing it to the members of his family pour some of it on the ground and stir it into the dirt and ashes so that the dogs could not get it, calling on Wa-con-da to accept it as a thank offering. It was the universal custom in council to pass the pipe from chief to chief, each taking a whiff or two, and exclaiming, as he exhaled the smoke, words that signified an acknowledgment of Wa-con-da's presence, — the act being in reality a smoke offering. They knew nothing of the Mosaic law, but old Chief Wan-a-ga-he once declared, striking himself upon the breast, "We know that within us is peace if we do right, but if we do wrong Wa-con-da is displeased and we are unhappy." Kindness toward each other and harmony in families were notable traits of the Otoe character that remind one of Castaneda's statement already quoted — "they are a kind people." As the ancient Jews relied upon their tribal God to aid them in battle with their enemies, so the Otoes relied upon Wa-con-da to aid and protect them on the war-path.

In the fall of 1870 Agent Green discovered that a party of Otoes were preparing for a pony raid on a distant tribe a proceedure that was analagous to going on the war-path, so far as risk and excitement were concerned. The leader of the party, a notorious half-breed, known as Jim White-water (who afterward spent seventeen years in the state penitentiary for an atrocious double murder), had already nearly completed all preliminary arrangements when the discovery was made. For several days the braves whom he had selected for the party had been segregated in a tepee at some distance from the village, undergoing certain preparatory exercises, consisting mostly of chanting and drumming, while Jim sought secluded places in the timber along Plum creek where he loudly wailed and called on Wa-con-da to favour the enterprise. This segregation or separation of men from their wives for some

days, before starting on the war-path, the time being taken up with efforts to win the favour of Wa-con-da by chanting and drumming, is of great antiquity. On this occasion Wa-con-da failed to render protection, for the agent wrathfully descended on the band with his police and ordered their dispersal threatening imprisonment of their leader if he attempted to leave the reservation. The chiefs at once asked for a council and informed the agent that when a war-party had gone so far with the preliminaries they could not back out without disgrace, and that in order to look their friends in the face without shame it would be necessary to give them at least six ponies, and suggested that if the agent would give one they would make up the required number. This the agent refused to do, and the chiefs silently departed, but sent a messenger to inform the agent that they had bought the war-party off with ponies.

The medicine-bag, a bundle about two feet in length, containing a mysterious assortment of relics and charms, held an important place in what might be termed the religious psychology of the Otoes. In some mysterious way it was supposed to invite the presence or favour of Wa-con-da. There was usually one of these mysterious bundles suspended in every large lodge and all were supposed to be of great antiquity, having been handed down from generation to generation. Some of them were decorated with the scalps of enemies slain in battles fought so long ago that even tradition failed to recall their story. There was no tincture of idolatry connected with these objects; they were venerated very much as shrines have been venerated by Christians and were carried by war parties in a belief that Wa-con-da, the Great Medicine (Mystery), would favour them with his protecting presence.

The Otoes and Missouris believed in a universal immortality that included not only human souls but also spirits of all animals. They believed that a pony, strangled by the side of its owner's grave at the time of his burial, accompanied him as a spirit steed to the land of the immortals, and that a dog strangled beside the grave of a little child afforded it company and protection. It was not until 1870-1871 that Agent Green succeeded in abolishing the practice of strangling ponies, but the strangling of dogs was permitted to continue during the Indians' sojourn in the county. It was not an uncommon sight to see the body of a dog, dried to a mummy, standing in an upright position with its back to a stake, to which it was tightly bound by a raw-hide thong passed around its throat.

The Otoes used no coffins, but placed their dead in a sitting posture in graves that were only about four feet in depth with an opening at the top only large enough to admit the body, — the cavity being from three to four feet in width at the bottom. The relatives, having taken a final farewell of the dead, all joined in loud wailing, while the old women, whose province it was to dig graves and conduct burials, placed a layer of heavy sticks and a buffalo robe or blanket over the mouth of the grave and piled the excavated earth upon it. If a pony was to be strangled, a saddle and bridle was usually put beside its owner in the grave, and the chosen animal, having been decorated with hand-marks of vermillion, was led to the grave-side with a lariat looped around its neck in a manner easily to produce strangulation when a squaw at each end pulled with all her strength. The pony having fallen beside the grave was allowed to remain there until dogs and wild animals had consumed its flesh; the skull was then placed as a decoration on the top of the mound, and its tail or a portion of the mane attached to a pole planted at the side of the grave. A well authenticated instance of the burial alive of an old man, with the body of his grandchild, occurred a few years prior to 1869. The story, as related by Battiste Deroin, was a very sad and pathetic one. It appears that the old man was greatly attached to the child and when it died was inconsolable; his feeble condition indicated that his own departure was not far distant, and it was in accordance with his own desire that he was placed in the grave with the little one in his embrace, that he might be its caretaker and companion through the wilderness that all

must cross in order to reach the land of eternal rest. Food was placed beside him and the wailing sounded afar, as his kinsmen bade him farewell and the heavy earth was mounded above his head.

The Otoes did not always bury their dead, especially when the ground was deeply frozen. One of the strangest sights to be seen upon the reservation consisted of two ancient oaks, standing within a few feet of each other, the limbs and forks of which were laden with the mummified remains of men women and children, each wrapped in skins, old blankets, bark, etc., and bound with raw hide thongs so securely that the most violent storms had never been able to dislodge them. The trees stood at the foot of a low bluff near the principal Indian burial ground, and at a point nearly midway between the present town of Barneston and Plum creek. During the fall of 1872 a great prairie fire swept the river bottom and there being much tall grass and dry trash beneath the partly decayed oaks, they were ignited and with their gruesome burden completely destroyed. What was probably the last instance of such disposal of the dead occurred during the winter of 1870, when the writer discovered the recently placed body of a child securely wrapped and tied far out on the limb of a very tall tree that stood on the bank of the Blue at a point about a mile south of the present town of Wymore.

The first mercantile establishment in the county was on Plum creek, at a point about a mile west of the present town of Liberty, where, in a log cabin, one Gideon Bennett, an Indian trader, sold beads, calico and other Indian goods, taking in exchange furs and buffalo robes, as well as crediting the heads of families against the forthcoming annuity payments. The business afterward passed into the hands of Macdonald, of St. Joseph, who, in 1869, engaged Mrs. David Palmer to conduct the store. She understood and talked the Indian language and dealt fairly with the Indians. Mrs. Palmer and her husband were

Old Burial Place and Funeral Trees of the Otoes

among the first settlers of the county and were typical pioneers. David was a stalwart mountainer, inured to hardships; the advantages of an education had been denied him, but the book of nature was ever open to his understanding. Mrs. Palmer was in many respects a remarkable woman, energetic and trustworthy in conducting Macdonald's business and quick to acquire a knowledge of the Otoe language that enabled her to transact business without an interpreter. As illustrating the versatility of her talents, the writer has in his possession a pair of heavy, gauntleted driving gloves made from a beaver skin that he obtained from an Otoe, — the palms and fingers being of deer skin, the cutting, fitting, and stitching all being the work of her hands and equal to any that are offered for sale. The vicinity of the store was settled by families from Tennessee, some of whom tried raising cotton, but soon discovered that the climate was not very well adapted to it; some of them did their own spinning and weaving of a sort of cloth, having brought the necessary apparatus with them from Tennessee. The writer remembers to have seen men's clothing made from this homespun cloth.

It was during the time that Bennett conducted the store on Plum creek that a band of Pawnees made a raid upon it. They had spent a part of the night watching for an opportunity to seize Otoe ponies, but finding them too securely corralled and guarded, had broken into the store instead. Naturally Bennett supposed that a party of Otoes must have been guilty of the affair, but investigation at the agency proved that such was not the case. The Otoes were greatly excited and their police were not long in discovering the trail of the robber band which they followed swiftly, overtaking them on the Little Blue, some miles above the present site of Fairbury. In the fall of 1869 the writer, while accompanying the Otoes on a hunt, encamped for a night near the spot where this encounter took place, at which time fragments of skulls and bones were found among the briars and underbrush that covered the spot where the Pawnees were overtaken. The Otoes claimed to have killed the entire party.

We have already referred to the hereditary hostility that existed between these Indians and the Osages, — a hostility that is known to have existed as far back as 1720, if the writings of Spanish friars can be depended upon, and which appears to have been kept alive through all the intervening years, resulting in frequent ventures upon the war-path, reprisals for ponies stolen and sometimes in bloodshed. The last raid made by Osage warriors upon the Indians of Gage county occurred in the fall of 1868; it resulted in the killing of a number of Otoe women who were at work at some distance from the village, all of whom were scalped and otherwise mutilated. The Osages were a powerful tribe as compared with the Otoes, but a party of Otoe braves at once prepared to take the war-path against them, determined either to inflict retribution or exact reparation. Having invoked the favour of Wa-con-da by chanting, drumming, and wailing, in a tepee apart from the village, the party set out on their perilous undertaking. They had been gone many days and great suspense and anxiety was felt in regard to them when a messenger, announcing their approach with a great herd of ponies, arrived at the village. The greatest excitement and rejoicing ensued; heralds cried the news from one end of the village to the other, and the women and children stationed themselves on the tops of the lodges in order to get a view of the returning war party as it approached in the distance. Soon, with beating drum and loud war whoops, they filed into the village with a string of eighty ponies following in their train. Of these eighty ponies, it appears that forty had been given by the Osages on presentation of the peace-pipe at a parley held at the Osage village, the other forty had been stolen from the Osages the following night. A great war dance followed; the story of bravery and daring was loudly shouted by the heralds; feasting and rejoicing continued far into the night, but through it all a sense of hovering danger disquieted the old men of the tribe who were too well acquainted with the ways of the Osages to doubt for a moment that their painted warriors would lose little time in exacting reparation. Measures were

at once taken to guard against a surprise raid. All ponies were securely corralled within the village every night and kept under watch both night and day.

It was during this period of fear and suspense, which extended into the summer of 1869, that the Pottawattamies turned a rather neat trick on the Otoes. A war-party of Pottawattamies had made a raid upon the Omahas and with thirty head of stolen ponies were on their homeward way, when, in order to mislead the Omahas and throw suspicion upon the Otoes, should the Omahas follow their trail, they made a detour through the Otoe reservation, passing in the night as near the village as possible without discovery by the Otoes. The war-party of thirty Omaha braves who a few days later, following their trail, naturally concluded that their ponies had been stolen by the Otoes and that the right thing to do would be to recoup themselves from the Otoe herds. Cautiously reconnoitering during the small hours of the night, they were greatly astonished at the unusual precautions that the Otoes had taken to protect their ponies from theft, not being aware of their recent trouble with the Osages. The ponies belonging to each family were enclosed in pens of heavy wickerwork close to the lodge entrance and from sunset until daybreak a watchman was on guard.

The Omaha braves, secreted in the tall sunflowers and wild hemp that formed a rank growth in the vicinity of the lodges and corralls, received no attention from the Indian dogs, though if a white man had so hidden they would have announced his presence in the noisiest manner. Slowly the hours passed until, with the first streaks of dawn, the watchmen retired and then with swift movements the silent forms of thirty nearly naked men cut the withes of bark that held the wickerwork and poles of the corralls in place, each seized a choice animal, mounted it, and all rode swiftly away. The noise of clattering hoof-beats awakened the drowsy Otoes who came swarming from their lodges, sure that the feared and hated Osages had visited them at last. It was soon found that thirty head of the very best ponies were missing. In a very short time the women and children of the village were standing on the lodges gazing afar off on the prairie where a long line of Otoe horsemen were swiftly following the trail of the stolen ponies. By noon the thieves had been overtaken and found to be Omahas instead of Osages. The entire party were taken prisoners and brought to the agency; all were in war paint and heavily armed, each man having, besides a bow and quiver of arrows, a heavy revolver of the type used by cavalrymen during the Civil war. The leader carried a war-drum which the writer still retains as a memento of the occasion. Having disarmed them as they entered the council room in charge of the Indian police, all were seated on the floor while their leader and other principal men of the party were called upon to state the circumstances of their visit. The Otoes had been furiously angry at first, but on learning all the facts connected with the affair were rather inclined to view it as a "comedy of errors" and, on advice of the agent, smoked the pipe of peace with the captured men and invited them to partake of food, as they were nearly starved. They had traveled from their village one hundred and fifty miles away, afoot, expecting to return on horseback, but the fortunes of war compelled them to return as they came. The only blood shed upon their war-path was that of a hog belonging to Elijah Filley, whose farm lay in their course. Elijah brought the bloody arrow to the agency as evidence of what he supposed to have been an Otoe depredation.

The success of the Omaha raiders in taking ponies from the corralls did not lessen the feeling of uneasiness and dread that was felt in the direction of the Osages. In fact the expectation of an Osage attack kept the Otoes on the anxious seat until the spring of 1870, when Agent Green called a council and announced to the chiefs his intention of making an everlasting peace between the tribes. He informed them that he should at once invite the Osages to send representatives to a settlement of all differences; that forty head of ponies should be delivered to them, that being

the number stolen; and that the war-path between the Otoes and the Osages should be forever ended. In due course of time a band of Osage chiefs and braves, gorgeously painted and befeathered, arrived at the agency; a council was held and many speeches in both the Otoe and Osage language were made; the great red-stone peace pipe was smoked by all as it passed from hand to hand. The agent, whom the Indian chiefs always addressed as "Un-koe" (my father) when they were assembled in council, then emphasized the importance of at once forever ending a custom that civilization would no longer tolerate. All agreed that the words of the father were good, — a great feast followed the adjournment of the council, and the Osage warriors departed, leaving behind them a sense of peaceful security that the Otoes had not known for many long years.

After the destruction of the old mission building some years elapsed before any attempt was again made to educate the Indian children. During the fall and winter of 1869 cottonwood and walnut logs were cut and the saw mill was kept busy preparing lumber for a school house and other needed buildings. A large one-story school building was completed in 1870 and all Indian children of school age were required to attend, attendance being made compulsory. Commencing with the fall of 1869 clothing of all kinds for children was abundantly furnished by the Indian Aid Association of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, consequently the school children were all well clothed for the first time in their lives. The school was supplied with competent teachers from the start, — women whose faithful services entitle their names to laudatory mention in any historical account of our county's Indian population. Miss Maria VanDorn and Mrs. Nannie Armstrong were Virginians, while Mrs. Sallie Ely and Miss Elizabeth Walton were from Philadelphia. All were faithful and efficient workers in educational lines as well as in attending to the needs of the sick and aged, in distributing clothing, and in advising the Indian women in regard to sanitary living. Miss Phebe Oliver, a graduate of the Women's Medical College of Philadelphia, came to the agency as resident physician in 1870. She was very successful in the treatment of diseases of children, the prevalence of which diseases had caused many deaths previous to her arrival. Up to this time the Otoes had relied wholly on their own methods of treatment, the basic principle of which was the prevention of interference by evil spirits. Every case of sickness was supposed to result in accordance with the will of an evil spirit or influence that, unless frightened away, will interfere with the action of medicine and render a cure impossible. The course usually adopted in the case of desperate wounds or severe injuries was to shake rattles and to dance around the patient for six days and nights, fresh dancers taking the place of others from time to time. In the case of a sick or wounded horse a different method was pursued. At each administration of medicine or treatment of a wound a different colored blanket was placed upon the animal, the supposition being that this would confuse or deceive the bad spirit that interfered with the curative process, so that it would be likely to pass without recognizing the animal.

As illustrative of Otoe methods in the successful treatment of a case that the agent and his employes all considered hopeless, that of Roc-co a young brave whose skull had been split by an axe so that a portion of the brain exuded, deserves recording in these pages. It seems that Roc-co was sitting on the ground close to where his wife was cutting down a tree, when her axe slipped or glanced and cut deeply into the top of his head. The horrified woman, believing that she had killed him and knowing that his blood relatives would lose no time in taking her life for his, at once fled and secreted herself in some far-off fastness. The unconscious Roc-co was found in due time and borne to the agency. It was the opinion of all the white employes that he could survive but a short time and that he would never regain consciousness. Dr. Oliver not yet having arrived upon the reservation, the Otoe doctors begged for permission to try their skill upon him, which the agent granted. He was then

taken to his own lodge and laid upon the ground with his head near a fire, beside which an Otoe drum was continuously beaten and around which a circle of Indians danced, each shaking a gourd rattle, the noise of which, together with the monotonous chanting of the relays of dancers, was kept up for six days and nights. At intervals one of the dancers stepped from the circle and taking a mouthful of a dark liquid sprayed it upon the wound. Whether it was the alternate moistening of the wound with the liquid and drying by the warmth of the fire, or the incessant noise, acting curatively in awakening dormant faith, no one can tell, but the fact remains that after six days the tribe assembled to see him led forth, pale as a ghost, tottering and leaning on a staff. His complete recovery was a matter of only a few weeks.

In the meantime diligent search had been made for Roc-co's wife, and she was very liable to perish from cold and hunger, the nights being cold and she very thinly clad. It was many days before a trace of her could be found and when at last, emaciated and worn out with anguish and physical suffering, she was found in some far off ravine, the news of her husband's survival and possible recovery came to her as a message of great joy. She had carefully evaded and eluded all searching parties, supposing their intention was to put her to death.

Among the Otoes the doctors were usually women, whose duty it was to dig the grave and bury a patient whom they failed to cure, such termination of a case entitling them to act as administrators of the personal estate of the deceased, most of which became their perquisites. Bleeding and blistering were resorted to for many pains and aches. The bleeding was done by scarifying the spot in which the pain centered and then using a sort of a suction cup made from the horn of a young buffalo, the small end of which had been perforated. The blistering was a cruel infliction usually applied on the breasts of children by inserting a piece of dry pitch in a small cut and igniting it. As several such torches were scattered over a child's breast and burned down until large blisters were produced, one can imagine the agony the little patients had to endure.

An ancient Indian custom, that survived until 1871-1872, was pony-giving and pipe-dancing. The Iowas, Omahas, and Otoes had always been on visiting terms, and always owed each other visits, in order to get back as many ponies as had been given or more. It was nothing unusual for the Otoes to give from twenty-five to fifty head of ponies to a visiting band. A man's reputation for courage and his standing in the tribe was largely dependant on the number of ponies he had given away during his lifetime. In almost every lodge there was conspicuously displayed a bundle of small painted sticks, each of which represented a pony that the owner of the lodge had given away on the occasion of a pipe-dance. The larger the bundle the greater the honor due its possessor. The daughter of a man whose display of painted sticks indicated his having given away many ponies was entitled to bear the "Kra-kah" mark,—a blue spot tattooed midway between the eye brows. The possession of such a beauty-spot was evidence that she was the daughter of a very brave and honorable personage. Agent Green found that pipe-dancing and tribal visits with pony giving were very detrimental to the tribe's advancement toward a more civilized condition. They were customs that had been in vogue for untold centuries and were among the strongest ties binding the tribes to a past age of barbarism. At a conference of United States Indian agents, held in Omaha in 1870-1871, he advocated a concerted action on the part of all the agents in the superintendancy, in putting a stop to tribal visiting, pipe-dancing and pony-giving. Each agent present agreed no longer to permit his Indians either to go on a pipe-dance visit, or to receive a visiting band from another tribe. It required some time for the tribes to reconcile themselves to this abandonment of what for centuries had been one of their chief sources of pleasure and excitement, and it was not until after a few visiting bands had been sent to their homes pony-less that the custom was re-

luctantly abandoned. The conclusion of a permanent peace with the Osages and the discontinuance of frequent tribal visits with their attendant excitement rendered it less difficult to induce the Indians to live in the small frame houses that the agent was building for them, and to cultivate the land.

Gradually the men were induced to wear the clothing furnished by the Indian Aid Association, though many of the older men could never be persuaded to wear trousers and often mutilated or destroyed a new pair of trousers in order to use the legs as leggings; they objected to the rest of the garment for the reason that it made the lower part of the body too warm. Efforts were made by the ladies of the agency to introduce the use of soap and towels into the domestic economy of the Otoe lodges, and considerable quantities of these were supplied by the Indian Aid Association, all of which the Indians gladly received and at once established a lively commerce with their white neighbors, supplying them with soap and towels in exchange for fresh pork, chickens, butter, and other edibles. On one occasion the Indian Aid Association sent a very large box containing enough gay creations of the milliner's art to supply every woman in the tribe with a flower or feather bedecked headpiece, either a hat or a bonnet. The next day the young braves of the tribe had bedecked themselves with the whole of this supply of gay millinery; the women had no use for it.

The Otoes and Missouris were of very pure Indian blood, except in the case of three or four individuals whose names indicated a French ancestry. Two of these men were of striking appearance and physique. Both were fairly well educated and they were of nearly the same age. One was Battiste Deroin the other Battiste Barneby. Battiste Deroin was an Otoe while his lifelong rival and competitor for the position of United States interpreter was an Omaha, married to an Otoe woman. The French blood in the veins of each had been diluted through so many generations of Indian ancestors that its existence was hardly apparent. For some reasons that had militated in his favour Deroin received the appointment as government interpreter from Agent Green, in 1869, — a position that he afterward held until the removal of the Indians from the county. Both men had great influence among the Indians and were highly regarded by many of the early settlers of the county. They were both most interesting conversationalists and well versed in all Indian lore. Battiste Deroin was a polygamist, his two wives being sisters, as he had availed himself of an Indian custom that permitted a man to take his wife's younger sister as a supplementary wife without ceremony or gift. The fact that this young woman was the beauty of the tribe and had a host of admirers and lovers caused him many a pang of jealousy that was far from being groundless. Battiste Barneby was among the first Indians on the reservation to build a frame house and occupy it as a dwelling place both winter and summer. It was provided with a wide, open fire-place, within which a cheerful fire always blazed and beside which might be often seen a nearly full-grown wild cat, either asleep or engaged in washing its face with its paw, just as an ordinary pussy does. Its sharp claws enabled it to exact due respect from the snarling dogs that tried to form its acquaintance. Mrs. Barneby wore the Kra-kah mark between her eyebrows, indicating that her father had been brave and honorable; a man of great liberality and generosity. A bundle of small painted sticks, each representing a pony given away, doubtless accompanied him to the grave. Battiste Barneby was accidentally killed, in Atchison, Kansas, in 1875 or 1876.

Perhaps no Indian was more widely known among the early settlers than old Medicine Jake, the snake doctor. Emaciated and entirely nude, except as to a breech cloth, his striking appearance was enhanced by a snake-skin bandaged around one of his skinny legs, just below the knee, as a sign or advertisement of his profession. Rattlesnakes and moccasins were quite plentiful and the Indian children were frequently bitten. It was claimed that old Jake had an infallible cure that nobody else knew how to prepare. Strange as it may seem, the Otoes were afraid to kill

snakes owing to a belief that if one was killed its kindred would seek until they found the killer and inflicted revenge. Their name for snake was "wah-cun," signifying something akin to a spirit. Another remarkable character was O-thro-kes-koo-nie, known among the white people as "Hog-Jaw" because of a deformity that caused his lower teeth and jaw to project in a frightful manner, — a malformation that made the poor fellows life miserable by creating fear and aversion whenever he appeared in the presence of strangers. Perhaps one of the strongest characters among the Otoes was Jo-John, captain of the Indian police. When Ar-ka-ke-ta was deposed and Medicine Horse made chief, Jo-John was promoted by the agent to a chieftainship, but alas, Beatrice whiskey was his undoing, — when under its influence, in a sudden fit of anger, he killed a companion by striking him on the head with a neckyoke. This act cost him his position as chief and, according to ancient custom, forfeited him his life, putting it absolutely at the disposal of the kindred of the slain. In order to save him from summary execution he was lodged in jail at Beatrice. Eventually the relatives of the murdered man were appeased by a liberal gift of ponies, and Jo-John was restored to the bosom of his family. Physically Jo-John was a splendid specimen of his race. Having a mental capacity above the average, he possessed those ancient traits of Indian character that won the confidence and esteem of the early French traders, — honesty, integrity, and truthfulness. An incident illustrating this occurred shortly before the unfortunate homicide we have mentioned. It seems that he had borrowed a small sum of money from a person living near Blue Springs, promising to repay it within a certain time and when the time was near at hand he went to the house of the lender to repay it, only to find the premises occupied by strangers, who informed him that the party he sought had removed to a distant part of Kansas. Jo-John knew nothing about bank drafts or money orders, so, mounting his pony, he set out on a long and wearisome journey to find his creditor. The trip required several days and involved much inquiry, for it was not known exactly where the party had located and an inability to clearly express ideas in English made the task he had undertaken all the harder. His perseverance, however, was rewarded by finding the party sought, who was greatly surprised by the payment of a small debt that he had forgotten all about.

The Otoes as a people were innately honest and generally careful to meet all their financial obligations. This characteristic was so well known to all Indian traders and agency employes that they never hesitated to extend them credit, knowing that on annuity payment, if not before, the debt would be paid. Perhaps next to Jo-John the finest looking and most typical specimen of an Indian warrior was Har-ra-gar-rah, son of Chief Big Soldier. He was known among the white people by the name of "Hod-de-god-die." It was the chief hope and ambition of Big Soldier's life that Hod-de-god-die should succeed him as chief, and many were the interviews he sought with the agent on that account, but the old man's hopes were doomed to disappointment for Hod-de-god-die's mental equipment and calibre would have disqualified him even had a vacancy occurred. When arrayed in full Indian costume that included a very ancient necklace of bear's claws, ears loaded with silver bobs, and face bedecked with indigo and vermillion, Hod-de-god-die presented a rather gorgeous spectacle, but the real Beau Brummel of the tribe, the acknowledged prince of all fops, was Jack Wild-Bird. To visitors he was a curiosity. He appeared to have only one serious occupation, aside from athletic games, and that was the beautification and decoration of his personality. Hours were spent in painting and decorating his face with vermillion, indigo, yellow ocher, and white clay, and experience had taught him how to produce the most startling and inharmonious effect. His head was always kept shaved to a scalp-lock, from which floated a fine eagle's feather. And many hours of his time were occupied in the use of his beard-puller and in watching his face in a large hand-glass that was carried attached to his waist

cord. The beard-pullers used by the Otoes consisted of a spring-like steel coil about three inches in length which, when pressed against the face, and tightly squeezed, caught and held the small hairs and eyebrows, thus enabling the operator to extract a large number at once. These instruments were sold by all Indian traders. During warm weather Jack's only raiment, aside from his scarlet breech cloth and heavy necklaces of wampum and beads, was similar to that possessed by Adam before the apple episode, but in cold weather he fairly bloomed in gay ribbands, deer-skin leggings decorated with the stained quills of the porcupine, and the handsomest scarlet blanket obtainable. He was undoubtedly the most accomplished flute musician in the tribe, and during summer evenings the melodious strains of his flute, mingled with the far off wail of a mourner beside a lonely grave, were often aids in courting sleep. The neverfailing hospitality to be met with at every lodge rendered the matter of subsistence a minor consideration with this gay idler. In the ancient athletic games of the tribe he was a leader and expert. The village play ground was a very important feature of village life. It consisted of well-smoothed and perfectly level space about five hundred feet in length by perhaps two hundred in width. It was there that many of the young men, nude except as to breech cloth, played from morning till night through the hottest days, exhibiting a wonderful dexterity in throwing, while running at great speed, a small flexible ring, causing it to spin along the ground while each runner essayed to catch it upon a sort of a javelin that he threw as he ran. This game was rendered very exciting by the betting that accompanied it, and it was from this source that Jack Wild-Bird acquired the means that enabled him to bedeck himself so gayly.

It was a custom among the Indians to deprive a woman of the sight of one eye if she was known to have departed from the path of virtue. The writer was cognizant of a case of this kind in 1869, but occasions for the infliction of this severe punishment were very rare. Marital infelicity, caused by infidelity on the part of a wife, called for the blood of her paramour; or in lieu of that a gift of ponies proportionate to his wealth.

The adjudication and settlement of all troubles devolved upon the agent. In the course of administering justice and punishing delinquents he found it necessary on one occasion to convert the agency smoke-house into a jail, and having placed a number of youthful culprits therein, under a ten days' sentence, he securely padlocked the door. The building being an old frame structure, the prisoners had little difficulty in devising a secret exit which enabled them to spend most of their time at home, being very careful to be in jail when the meals were handed in. This free and easy manner of suffering imprisonment had been continued for several days so successfully that the prisoners grew careless in regard to being in limbo at meal-time, and their jailor having decided to pay them a visit a little earlier than usual, found the prison empty. The police were at once notified and soon reported that they had found them in the jail, where they positively declared they had been all the time.

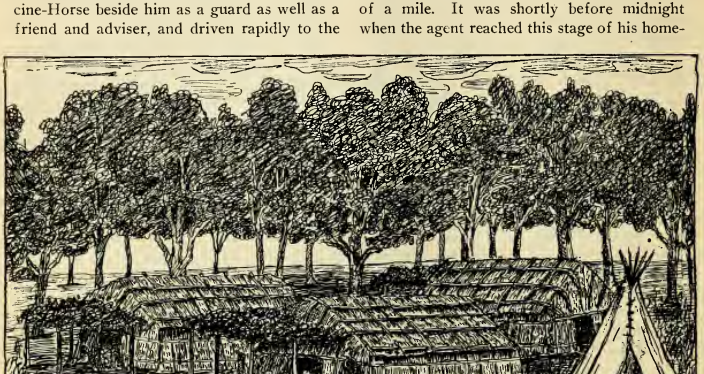
The Otoe word for medicine had a broader meaning than we attach to its equivalent, for it is "mon-co," — the mysterious, the occult, the incomprehensible; even clairvoyance is not beyond its pale. A remarkable instance of an exhibition of the last named phenomena by the medicine men of the tribe occurred in 1872, while efforts were being made to recapture White-Water, the murderer, who, having escaped from the sheriff after his arrest, was in hiding somewhere on the reservation. A large party of Iowas were visiting the Otoes at the time, on account of a pipe-dance, and had joined in the hunt that was being made for the hiding-place of the fugitive. On account of a trifling peculiarity in the shape of the sole of his moccasin the searchers had discovered his trail in widely separated localities, but his cunning in eluding them was greater than their sleuth-craft. The Indians were exceedingly anxious to capture White-Water in order to show their condemnation

of his crime as well as to placate the animosity it had created, toward the Indians, among the friends and relatives of the murdered men. Disappointed in their efforts after several days of search, they at length invoked the occult and mysterious power that was believed to pertain to the "Mon-co" men, with results in the direction of clairvoyance that were as astonishing as they were mystifying An assemblage of probably two hundred horsemen, including the Iowas, was gathered at a place on the west side of the river where the prairie gradually sloped to a broad river-botton. The medicine men in their midst chanted and danced frantically until at length two of them, mounted on swift ponies, emerged from the throng and after circling around it a few times at great speed, darted off across the prairie and out of sight, — where they went or what happened to them during their absence of perhaps twenty minutes we do not know, but when they reappeared their horses were in a lather of sweat and as they approached it became evident that both swayed and could hardly retain their seats; a rush was made to meet them and each fell from his horse into the outstretched arms of his friends in an apparently unconscious condition. They were laid upon the ground and an excited crowd gathered closely around them. As they slowly recovered from a stupor they muttered words that were eagerly awaited for and listened to by those who were bending over them. In gasping and broken sentences they told of where they had (clairvoyantly?) seen the fugitive seated. It was on the summit of a high bluff on the south side of Cedar creek at a point that could be reached by climbing a very steep rocky gulch that extended from the bed of the creek. There, they declared, he was sitting in the tall grass and gazing watchfully over the country. The writer who accompanied the party of horsemen that at once started for the spot indicated, which was several miles distant, noticed that as they drew near, the Indians halted and were evidently afraid to approach within gun shot, and it was not until he had appealed to the police to show their bravery that they finally charged up the hill and, on the very spot designated by the medicine men, found the nest in the tall grass where he had been seated a very short time before the party charged up the hill on the prairie side, his moccasin tracks proving that he had escaped down the rocky gulch to the bed of the creek and along the edge of the creek, where his trail was followed for about a mile when it struck across the prairie towards the timber on Wolf creek.

The circumstances connected with the arrest of White-Water by Sheriff Alexander, of Jefferson county, his escape from the sheriff, and his final capture by the Indians, may be of sufficient historical interest to relate here. News of an atrocious double murder had reached us, but it was not until the arrival of Sheriff Alexander at the Agency that we learned that White-Water was suspected of the crime. On inquiry it was learned that when the Otoes returned from the hunt a few days before he had loitered behind and came in alone and very seriously wounded some hours after the crime must have been committed. The police informed us that he was living at Medicine Horse's village of bark lodges near the mouth of Mission creek, and the agent and sheriff at once proceeded to that place.

On their arrival an Indian, by a sly gesture, indicated the lodge where he slept and the agent at once entered and found him lying beside his wife on the platform of poles that, with a covering of skins, constituted his bed. On seeing the agent enter and catching a glimpse of the sheriff outside the doorway he at once realized that for him the situation was now desperate, and reaching beneath his pillow he drew forth a heavy, old-fashioned navy revolver, the very one with which the murder had been committed, and cocking it with his unwounded hand, excitedly told his wife that "now my time has come to die and these two principal white men shall die with me." He arose from the bed and, keeping the pistol pointed at the agent, backed to the rear doorway of the lodge, the agent followed closely despite his repeated threats that he would shoot, a threat that he would undoubtedly

have carried into effect had not Medicine-Horse arrived in the nick of time and compelled him to put up his pistol, telling him that if he killed either the agent or the sheriff the white people would wipe the tribe off the reservation. The murderer, pale with fear and suffering from his wound, was placed on a rear seat of the agency carriage with Medicine-Horse beside him as a guard as well as a friend and adviser, and driven rapidly to the return the next day, but having finished his business by sundown, and the night being moonlight, he concluded to start back. In those days all the creeks between Beatrice and the agency were crossed by very dangerous and uncertain fords, and in order to reach the Wolf creek ford the road skirted along the creek through the timber for nearly a quarter of a mile. It was shortly before midnight when the agent reached this stage of his home-



MEDICINE-HORSE'S VILLAGE

agency. On arriving at the Otoe village White-Water begged to be permitted to bid farewell to a relative, and it was while doing this that he sprang away from the sheriff and with the swiftness of a deer made his escape. It was nearly two weeks after the clairvoyance episode before his capture was finally effected. It had become known that he was lurking in the timber bordering Wolf creek, heavily armed, and determined never to be taken alive; this knowledge had been obtained by secretly following and watching his wife, who had sought him out and was in communication with him. On the day of his capture the agent had gone to Beatrice, expecting to ward journey, the very timber tract in which the outlaw was secreted. The moon was shining brightly and as all the curtains of the carriage were rolled up he at once realized that he was about to become a possible target to an unerring marksman. He stopped the horses, unrolled and fastened down every curtain, and then useing the whip made quick time through the timber and across the steep-banked, dangerous ford. Approaching the agency with the expectation of finding all wrapped in darkness and slumber, he was greatly astonished to find the place all lighted and astir. The Indian police were standing on guard about the doors, and evidently some-

thing momentuous had occurred. Yes, White-Water had been captured, brought to the agency, and delivered to the agent's wife, who had been left in charge of affairs during his absence. She had wisely planned all arrangements to render the murderer's escape impossible, but the unexpected return of her husband was a great relief to her. The capture was effected by his kinsmen in order that no one could be held liable, or compelled to atone for his blood in case of his execution, — it being the Indian custom for kindred to exact reparation either by taking a life or exacting a heavy penalty in ponies. They had approached him with brotherly greetings that disarmed suspicion and it was his own brother who, at an opportune moment, sprang upon him and held his arms while the others bound him securely with a lariat. A farm wagon was then brought from the agency and his unhappy kindred completed their stern act of duty by delivering him into the hands of the law. The next day the Indian police, clad in their blue cavalry uniforms, and carrying a large United States flag at their head, escorted the large agency carriage containing the agent, his interpreter, Battiste Deroin,* and the prisoner for Fairbury. Lack of space forbids giving details of the case; suffice to say that at a trial before Judge O. P. Mason, held some months later, White-Water was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for life. Seventeen years later he was pardoned by the governor, but his stay in prison had been an age to him. Confinement had ruined his health, his wife had married another, his kindred were mostly dead, and the beautiful valley of the Blue was no longer the home of his race.

The names of some of the leading braves and heads of families whose faces were familiar to many of the early settlers of the county may become of historic interest to future generations and well worth preserving, together with the significance of each in English. Hence we present the following:

Shun-ga-mon-co (Medicine-Horse)
Cha-pah (Buffalo's Head)
Cha-thea-ka (Buffalo's Tracks)
Hoo-gra-toe-way (Four Pillars)
E-stah-mon-tha (Iron Eyes)
Kay-tah (Turtle)
Paw-nee-inga (Little Pawnee)
Paw-nee-coo-cha (Pawnee-Killer)
Sho-cha-mon-ie (Moving Smoke)
Wah-nah-quash-coon-ie (Fearless)
Wah-cun-hun-cha (Big Snake)
Shun-ga-scaw (White Horse)
Mon-co-yo (Valley or Low Land)
Bah-thea-inga (Little Cedar)
My-um-pe (Good Land)
Nah-way-hun-cha (Big Hand)
Koth-a-inga (Little Crow)
Lont-noo-inga (Little Pipe)
Nee-ach-shinga (Little Creek)
Maw-hee (Knife)
Mah-loo-ha-la (Distant Land)
Mon-toe-pah (Bear's Head)
Mon-toe-tha-way (Black Bear)
No-ho-cha-ning-shinga (Little Brains)
Ton-nah-coo-nah (Courting Favour)
Wah-con-dah-keep-ah (Religious Head)
Wah-cun-thra-cha (Long Snake)
Whan-a-ga-he (Adviser)
Ho-mo-schu-cha (Red Elk)
Mah-sho-cha (Dust)
Chee-na-inga (Small Village)

Other heads of families, the English significance of whose names we are unable to give, but all of whom were well known to most of the early settlers of southern Gage county, were the following:

A-Gie-hi-ya
Cha-ah-gra
Har-ra-gar-rah (Police)
Ka-gra-tha
Mus-ka-gah-hay (Police)
Pah-wan-a-sha
Shoc-a-pi-ya
Poonch-e-in-do-wa
Who-ha
Ah-ga-ha-mon-nee
Cre-cah-gah
Hoth-a-coe
Gah-he-gah (Police)
Nah-pe-wah-la
Pay-ton-gah-hay

Tah-poth-ka (Police)
Noh-thra-thra-cha
Chu-sho-cha
Ah-ho-thea-ah
Ha-thon-ta
Ha-naw
Loo-he-a-mon
Noh-he-toppe (Police)
Roc-co (Police)
Um-buth-ka-day
We-ru-gri-inga
Sho-cha-inga

Among the names of prominent Otoe women who were occasional callers on the white settlers and whose faces were familiar to many of them were:

Ho-tock-a-me (Tom Boy)
Hun-gesh-cha-me
Ah-wa-soon-tha-me
Mon-ka-toe-wack-a-me
O-ma-toe-me
Mon-com-pay-me
Hoo-gla-me
Moh-sho-cha-me
Hun-do-ya-me
Tah-cha-me
Bah-ho-cha-me
Kay-lah-me
Mon-thu-bla-me

In 1875-1876 better school accommodations were secured by the erection of a large modern two-story school building, with accommodations for boarding a large number of the children. The supervision and care of the Indian Aid Association of the Society of Friends was continued from year to year, and this, combined with other civilizing influences, was instrumental in gradually changing the modes of living and habits of thought among the younger members of the tribe, but the old people adhered tenaciously to the ancient habits and customs of their race. The discontinuance of buffalo hunting, tribal visiting, pony-giving, pipe-dancing, and other episodes of Indian life that had always been of vast import to them, caused a feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction that finally culminated in a determination to remove to the Indian Territory.

In concluding this account of the aboriginal inhabitants of Gage county the writer wishes to bear testimony to their many virtues as a people, — their honesty, their never-failing generosity, their unselfish liberality, and their love and deep regard for each other in every family circle. Many interesting facts and incidents might be added, but space forbids.

CHAPTER XIII

FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

Indian Agents and Employes — Gideon Bennett — David Palmer — John O. Adams, and the Shaws — The Pethouds — The Killpatricks and Others — Settlements in Rockford Township — In Grant Township — At Blue Springs

The first white man to enter our county as far as we have any reliable information, were George Heppner, Indian agent for the Otoe and Missouri tribes of Indians, in 1855; his successor in office, William Wallace Dennison, in 1859; and a few employes of the government who had in charge the mill which belonged to the Indians and which had been hauled from Nebraska City by ox teams, in April, 1855; the blacksmith, farmer, and such other employes as the government allowed at that time. At least one white man followed the Indians from Nebraska City and engaged in trade with them on his own account. This was Gideon Bennett, who, in 1854, kept the famous ferry on which so many immigrants to the new territory of Nebraska there crossed the Big Muddy then and later on, and who obtained a charter from the first territorial legislative assembly conferring upon him and his family the exclusive privilege and franchise for operating a ferry at Nebraska City for ten years, beginning April 1, 1855. This privilege the second session of this assembly revoked. Bennett established a trading post on Plum creek, just outside the eastern reservation line and in the immediate vicinity of the village of Liberty, on Plum creek. He, however, acquired no residence in our county and remained at the trading post but a short time, when he sold it to a party named McDonald, at St. Joseph, Missouri, and returned to Nebraska City, where his family resided. Afterward he became prominent in local and territorial affairs, amongst other activities representing Otoe county in the territorial assembly of 1864. Some of his children still reside in Nebraska City. Neither Agent Heppner nor Agent Dennison removed their families from Nebraska City to the new reservation nor made any effort to acquire a residence in the county, nor did any of the other employes of the government about the Indian agency acquire or attempt to acquire a permanent residence in the county until after settlement was made at a number of other points. Some of the employes at the agency did, however, at an early date acquire a permanent residence in the county. Among these were Robert A. Wilson, who with his brother, William Wilson, came to the agency in 1855, and erected and took charge of the steam saw mill. They remained in charge of this property as millers and engineers till 1859, when both returned to Iowa. Robert A. Wilson married there and in 1861 he returned to Gage county, where he has ever since resided in Blue Springs. A more extended notice of him will be found later on in this work, in the article entitled "Blue Springs." Another of the Indian employes in an early day was Jacob Shaw. Mr. Shaw and his wife came to the Otoe agency with their only son, John Shaw, now connected with Klein's Mercantile Company, of Beatrice, in 1859, and was the government blacksmith for the Indians until about the year 1865, when he removed to Beatrice, where he and his wife and son became highly respected and prominent citizens. Mr. Shaw passed

away in 1916, but his aged widow and their son survive at the time of this writing.

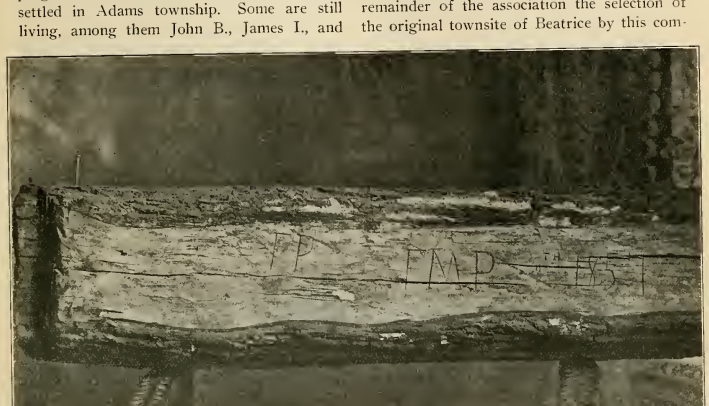
About the time the Indians were removed from Nebraska City to their new reservation, a young man by the name of David Palmer came to the county as an employe of Gideon Bennett at the latter's trading post on Cub creek. Just when he acquired an actual and permanent residence in the county does not seem to be settled beyond a doubt. It is certain, however, that he remained in the county from about 1855 until his death, residing during the latter part of his life on a farm owned by him in the neighborhood of Liberty. While living there he was drowned June 26, 1876, in the Big Blue river, near the Otoe and Missouri Indian village. His descendants still live in Barneston and Liberty townships. They are William Palmer, a son, of Liberty; Mrs. Flora McFarland and Mrs. Fannie Evans, daughters, of Barneston. It is to be regretted that a more authentic record of David Palmer cannot be obtained for the purposes of this history.

If we can look to neither Agents Heppner nor Dennison nor to the employes of the government about the Indian agency, nor to Gideon Bennett, nor to David Palmer, as the first white settler in Gage county, that question must be determined by considering other portions of the county.

The evidence is conclusive that white men in considerable numbers came into the county in the spring of 1857. In March of that year, in old Clay county, a lone white man is said to have stretched a piece of bark between two saplings on which was written this scrap of information: "John O. Adams claims this tract of land this 30th of March, 1857." Under the doctrine of squatter sovereignty as then applied to the preëmption laws of the country, this simple act was sufficient probably to constitute a settlement upon the public domain, if followed within four months with substantial improvements and actual occupancy. After selecting this tract of land, Mr. Adams returned to Holt county, Missouri, where he spent the winter of 1856-1857, and in the following April he moved with his family upon his claim, a part of which now constitutes the townsite of the village of Adams. Having erected a small hewed-log house on his land, he, on May 17, 1857, occupied it as a residence and on the same day began breaking up the virgin soil and planting a crop of sod corn. It can hardly be questioned that his is the first claim located, his the first cabin erected (the cabin at Bennett's trading post excepted), and his the first furrows drawn within the present boundaries of Gage county — all this, even though we may concede to David Palmer the honor of being the first bona fide white settler of our county. In addition to himself and wife Mr. Adams's family consisted of seven children. They were Nelson, Nancy, Isaac, John Quincy, Leander, Naomi, and Myanna. Mr. Adams was born in New Jersey, in 1807, he married Miss Letitia Harris, a native of Kentucky, born in 1812, and removed from Kentucky to Missouri in the fall of 1856, with an ox team. He acquired a large tract of land in Adams township, and several of his children were old enough to avail themselves of the benefit of the homestead law. His wife passed away at the age of fifty-five years and his own death occurred December 24, 1867. None of his children survive except Nelson and Naomi, who reside in the town of Adams. To this sterling pioneer a special memoir is dedicated in the biographical department of this volume.

Shortly after his arrival Mr. Adams was joined by John Stafford, H. Reynolds and brother, Charles Hickock, and Henry Golden; and in July, 1857, Stephen P. Shaw and his wife, Anna Hicks Shaw, with their sons, William, Egbert, John B., James I., and Stephen V. Shaw, with their families, and James and William P. Silvernail, sons-in-law, with their families, settled along the Big Nemaha river, in Adams township, all neighbors of John O. Adams. The Shaws were natives of the state of New York, migrated from that state to Wisconsin in 1850, and from there to Nebraska, leaving Wisconsin March 6th, with six lumber wagons drawn by eight yoke of oxen, and arriving in Nebraska July 6, 1857. In November of that year this small colony was

augmented by George Gale, John Lyons, and George Noxon, who also were sons-in-law of Stephen P. Shaw. And in the same year Jacob and John Hildebrand, George Drown, William Curtis, and H. C. Barmore arrived to swell the number of this little colony of progressive citizens. All these early pioneers settled in Adams township. Some are still living, among them John B., James I., and Stephen V. Shaw. Alfred Gale, who was also a pioneer of 1857 in Adams township, and who maintained a continuous residence in that township until recently, is spending the closing years of his life in University Place, this state.



Section of walnut log from John Pethoud's log cabin erected in the summer of 1857 on his claim four miles north of Beatrice

At almost the same time that John O. Adams entered the boundaries of old Clay county, John Pethoud, head of the well known pioneer family of that name, came with his friend Edward C. Austin to that county. Austin settled on Stevens (now Indian) creek, in the immediate neighborhood of the village of Pickrell, and began the erection of a log cabin on his claim. He and Pethoud were found at this work on the 15th day of May, 1857, by Jefferson B. Weston, Bennett Pike, M. W. Ross, and Harrison F. Cook, members of the locating committee of the Nebraska Association, on their way to Omaha to report to the remainder of the association the selection of the original townsite of Beatrice by this committee as the most eligible location in southeastern Nebraska for a city.

John Pethoud also drew after him a considerable following of relatives and friends, who settled in Midland, Logan, and Hanover townships, along Indian, Pierce, and Bear creeks, on the south side of the Clay county line. Amongst these were his married sons, John, Thomas, and Franklin M., with their families, and his sons, Andrew J. and James K. P. Pethoud. Soon afterward he was joined by his sons-in-law, Samuel Jones, the father of William R. Jones and Mrs. Sarah Drew

of Beatrice, and John Wilson and Marvin Thompson. About the same time, as previously noted, Edward C. Austin and two brothers, with Fordyce Roper, H. W. Parker, Orrin Stevens, and a few others settled in Clay county, around Austin's mill, near the present site of Pickrell. These pioneer families were soon joined by Ira Dixon and family, Joseph Proud, Thomas Sherrill and family, M. C. Kelly, J. H. Butler, and H. J. Pierce, for whom Pierce creek was named.

In 1858 and 1859 settlements were made in the western part of the county, along Cub creek, by Samuel Kilpatrick and his wife, Rachael, parents of John David and Henry Kilpatrick, both deceased, and the well known railroad contractors, capitalists, farmers, and stock-raisers, William H. Kilpatrick, Robert J. Kilpatrick, Samuel Davenport Kilpatrick, and Joseph M. Kilpatrick. About the same time, down the creek toward Beatrice from Samuel Kilpatrick's homestead, Leander Coffin, Thomas and Joseph Clyne and their mother, Elizabeth Clyne, Andrew Dean, a large family by the name of Wells, Asa F. Bailey, George Whittemore, Joseph Graff, William Blakely, Frederick Elwood, Jonathan Potts, and another man of the same surname, located claims along Cub creek or its vicinity.

Early settlements were made also along the Big Blue river, and the Mud and Cedar creeks, in Rockford township. The first settler in this township, as far as known, was James B. Mattingley, with his wife and two children. Mattingley located on lower Mud creek, in Section 33, in May, 1857. In 1858 the C. C. (Coffin) Berry family located a mile west of Mattingley's, on the Big Blue river, in Section 33 of Rockford township. In the spring of 1858 Edward Woolridge and wife, Leonard Wilson, wife and child, George W. Stark, and Solon M. Hazen located on preëmption claims in the central part of the township. They each broke out a few acres of prairie and planted a crop of sod corn. Woolridge, Wilson, and Stark built cabins on their claims and remained until their corn had ripened. This was gathered and stored in their cabins. Leonard Wilson's child died in the autumn of 1858, its little grave being the first grave in Rockford township and the beginning of what is known as the Stark cemetery. In August, 1858, Fidillo H. Dobbs located a preëmption claim in the same neighborhood. All these settlers returned to Missouri river points to spend the winter. In the spring of 1859 the Woolridges, Pottertons, Hazen, and Stark returned to their claims; the Wilsons never came back. Fidillo H. Dobbs moved his family, consisting of his wife and six children, to his claim March 13, 1859. The same year Jacob Schullenberger and family, Henry Schullenberger, wife and children, Philip B. Coffee and family, Robert Breese, John Tidler, John H. Dunn, and James W. Dunn established their permanent residence in Rockford and Filley townships along Mud creek. In 1861 these settlers were joined by William E. Mudge and family and Joseph Milligan and his wife Sally; and within the same year the Hollingsworth, Shelley, and Wild families, consisting of about twenty-five persons, settled in the neighborhood of Holmesville, along Cedar creek and the Big Blue river. They were English, were all related, and proved a welcome and valuable addition to the population of Gage county.

On the Big Blue river north of Beatrice, in Grant and Blakely townships, the first settlers were John Barrett, George Grant, and Charles Buss, about 1859. They were soon joined by a strong English colony of which the prominent members were Richard Rossiter and family, William and James Plucknett, Robert Nicholas, Richard Dibble and families. These were afterward joined by the Kinsies, two brothers, Joseph Roper and Frederick B. Roper, and members of the Quackenbush family and others.

In the southeast corner of the county settlement was made in 1859 along Plum and Wolf creeks and their tributaries, by James L. Ayers, Jonathan Sharp, Nathaniel D. Cain, Stephen B. Evans, John Palmer, Frederick Fisher, Peter Buckles, Tipton Marion, Frederick Wymore, and others.

In July, 1857, about the time the city of Beatrice was founded on an open prairie, set-

tlement was made also in the neighborhood of Blue Springs. The first settlers of whom we have any account in that locality were James H. Johnson and his family, consisting of his wife, Martha M. Johnson, his young daughters, Mary and Martha, and his sons, Thomas, Allen, James, and Richard. Allen, a boy ten years of age, was drowned in the Big Blue river shortly after the arrival of this family on their claim, a mile and a half northeast of Blue Springs. His death was the first to occur in Blue Springs township of which we have any record. The Johnson family was accompanied in its migration by the Elliott family, which, besides Martin Elliott, the head of this pioneer family, his wife and some minor children, included his adult married sons with their families — Williams, Stephen, and Henry Elliott. With the Elliotts was also a related family named Hevener. In 1858-1859, these pioneers were joined by Rankin Johnson and family, Patrick R. Gary, a son-in-law of Johnson's, and by Jacob Poff, Reuyl Noyes, Joseph Chambers, Samuel Shaw, Rebecca Woodward, F. M. Gratiam, William B. Tyler, Wright Sargent and his wife, True Sargent, and Herbert Viney and wife; and in 1860-1861, Thomas Armstrong and family, George Desert, Dr. J. M. Summers, and his son-in-law, James B. Maxfield, who afterwards became distinguished as a presiding elder in the Methodist Episcopal church in Nebraska. Robert A. Wilson, Dr. Levi Anthony, Lynus Knight, and King Fisher also settled in Blue Springs or in that neighborhood. The individual histories of some of these settlers will be found later on in this volume, in an article devoted to Blue Springs.

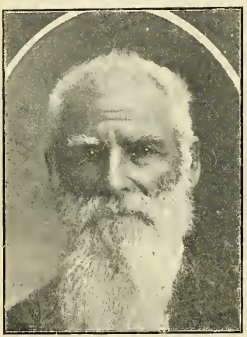
An interesting incident in the early settlement of Gage county is the fact that the first homestead entry under the homestead act of 1863 was made by a citizen of this county, Daniel Freeman, long a resident of Blakely township, where his homestead is located.

He had entered the service of the United States as a private in the Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry at the breaking out of the Civil war, in 1861. Shortly afterward he was transferred to the secret service of the United States, in which he continued until the close of the war, rendering almost invaluable services to the military department at Washington. In 1862 he was detailed for duty in the territory of Nebraska, and while here he visited the village of Beatrice and located a claim, in Section 26, township 4, range 5 of this county. He erected thereon a log cabin, and he moved his family to his claim prior to the first of January, 1863.

ORIGINAL CABIN ON FIRST HOMESTEAD

On the last day of December, 1862, Mr. Freeman appeared at Brownville for the purpose of availing himself of the benefit of the new homestead act, which went into effect at midnight, December 31, 1862. Mr. Freeman knew of the provisions of the homestead act but had no conscious intent of being the first man to profit by it. He had been ordered to report for service in one of the military departments of the country and was anxious to be away. That night he attended a dance at Brownville, and, becoming acquainted with one of the employes of the government land of-

fice, he apprised him of the fact that he desired to make homestead entry of his claim in Gage county. This accommodating official immediately after twelve o'clock, on January 1, 1863, accompanied Mr. Freeman to the land office and prepared his application for homestead entry covering the south half of the northwest quarter, the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 26, township 4, range 5, Gage county, Nebraska, and when the land office opened in the morning for business, Mr. Freeman's entry was allowed as the



DANIEL FREEMAN

first under the homestead act — this notwithstanding the presence of a large number of other applicants, including Samuel Kilpatrick, who were awaiting opportunity to enter land under the new homestead act. Hon. Galusha A. Grow, the author of the free-homestead law, speaking years afterward in congress upon the beneficence of this act, among other things, said:

There are two interesting incidents connected with the final passage of the original free-homestead bill. First, it took effect on the day of Lincoln's emancipation proclamation. Second, the first settler under the homestead bill, which provided free homes for free men, was named Freeman. Daniel Freeman, of Beatrice, Gage county, Nebraska, was a Union soldier, home on a furlough which would expire on the 2d or 3d day of January, 1863. At a little past midnight on the 1st day of January, 1863, he made his entry in the land office of his district, and left his home the same day to take his place again in the ranks on the tented fields. His entry was number one, his proof of residence was number one, his patent was number one, recorded on page one of book one of the land office of the United States. The first settler under this law was a Freeman, and I trust that the last of its beneficiaries in the long coming years of the future will be a free man.

Daniel Freeman was of the sturdiest kind of New England stock. His ancestors almost from the beginning of this country have been prominent and influential citizens of their communities. Many of them, including his great-grandfather, had fought in the Revolutionary war as well as in the war of 1812 and the Indian wars of the country. He himself possessed many admirable and heroic qualities. The last visit paid to him by the author of this volume some time before his death was at his home on the old homestead. He was ill, suffering from ailments from which he never recovered. Lying on his couch, he discoursed eloquently about his family history and pointed out upon the walls of his room and in its corners, many relics of Revolutionary days, among them his great-grandfather's flintlock musket, carried in some of the first battles for liberty in Massachusetts.

Mr. Freeman was born in Ohio in 1826, and was taken by his parents to Knox county, Illinois, in 1835. In 1847 he began the study of medicine, at Peoria, Illinois. Two years later he graduated from the Electric Medical Institute at Cincinnati, and he began the practice of his profession at Ottawa, Illinois, the same year. But the great Civil war drew him into its maelstrom in 1861, and after its close, in 1865, he found occupation in the simple, uneventful life of a farmer. He served his country as sheriff in 1869-1870; he was for many years justice of the peace of his township, and he held other minor civil offices. Of this honored pioneer further mention is made in the biographical department of this work.

CHAPTER XIV

FOUNDING OF BEATRICE

The Hannibal-Nebraska Association — Organization — Members — Locating Committee — Its Report — Selection of Name — First Fourth of July Celebration — Association Meets on Townsite — Selection and Entry of Townsite

The most authentic and interesting account of the early settlement of our county clusters about the beautiful city of Beatrice. Whatever credit may be due to others for the settlement, development, and progress of Gage county, there can be no doubt of the part that this city has played in all this work. The story of the founding of Beatrice reads like a romance and can never fail to have absorbing interest as a unique experiment in the settlement of the west.

Almost from the beginning of the nineteenth century the Missouri river steamboat had been an important means of communication between settled portions of our country and the western frontier. By 1854, when the territory of Nebraska was created and opened to immigration, lines of steamboats were regularly plying between St. Louis and the upper Missouri. One of these vessels was the old side-wheel steamer "Hannibal." On the 3d day of April, 1857, this staunch river boat slowly turned her prow up the current of the Mississippi, pushed off from her wharf at St. Louis, and began a long, tedious, and uneventful voyage to the settlements along the Missouri river. She was crowded with emigrants from every portion of the country, all bound for the west. Of her three hundred passengers two hundred were Mormons on their way to join a Mormon colony at Florence, Nebraska territory, and thence to move across the great plains to Salt Lake City. Of the remaining passengers many were young men, and a few were heads of families; nearly all were bound for the western frontier. Before they had been many days out from St. Louis, there sprung up between the non-Mormon portion of the passengers an acquaintance which was destined to be attended by consequences of the utmost importance to the citizens of Gage county and the state of Nebraska. On the 23d day of the voyage from St. Louis, while this great river boat was temporarily stranded on a sand bar, opposite the village of Doniphan, in Kansas territory, in a meeting called for the purpose of considering the situation steps were taken whereby thirty-five of these daring and congenial spirits bound themselves by a written constitution to remain together and settle as a colony somewhere in the new territory of Nebraska.

The minutes of this meeting when viewed by the light of subsequent events possess great interest. They read as follows:

Wednesday, April 22, 1857.

Meeting of the passengers on board the steamboat Hannibal, convened while fastened on a sand bar near Doniphan, K. T.

On motion of John McConihe, Hon. J. F. Kinney was called to the chair. On motion, John McConihe was appointed secretary.

The chairman then stated the object of the meeting to be the organization of all who were willing into one town association and the formation of a settlement in Nebraska. Appropriate remarks were made by the president, tending to show the advantages of such an association, if all the members were actual settlers, and further stated that southern Nebraska, the Nemaha country, would probably offer the greatest inducements at present.

Mr. Albert Towle was then called upon and he addressed the meeting, stating that he had

traveled in the Nemaha country and that it was a beautiful and desirable section, and that a town located in its midst would thrive and prosper.

Thereupon it was resolved that a committee of five be appointed to draft articles of association and report at a subsequent meeting.

The chair appointed as a committee to draft articles of association, John McConihe, Ezra M. Drake, Timothy Elliott, Bayard T. Wise, James A. Raridon.

Mr. McConihe moved that the chairman be added to the committee as its chairman. Carried.

The meeting was large and enthusiastic, and the subject of starting new towns was generally discussed.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet to-morrow, April 23d, at 10 o'clock A.M.

JOHN MCCONIHE, Secretary.

The second meeting also was well attended. It included probably most of the non-Mormon male passengers who were looking forward to establishing themselves in the new territory of Nebraska. The minutes of this meeting are interesting and have great historical value. They are as follows:

Missouri River Steamboat Hannibal.
April 23, 1857, 10 A. M.

Meeting called to order, Hon. J. F. Kinney in the chair. The committee appointed at the first meeting to draft articles of association reported as the result of their labors, the following:

Articles of Association.

The undersigned agree to and adopt the following Articles of Association.

First: The name of this association shall be known as "The Nebraska Association."

Second: The object of the same to select a townsite in Nebraska, either by purchase or claim; claim the same and so much land adjacent thereto as this association may agree upon, all of which shall be held by the members for the mutual benefit of all.

Third: Persons signing these articles and becoming settlers either in person or by substitute upon the townsite or adjacent land claimed as aforesaid within two months shall be entitled to an equal share in all the benefits belonging to or arising out of this association.

Fourth: The offiers of this association shall consist of a president, secretary, treasurer and board of directors.

Fifth: A locating committee shall be appointed immediately, who shall proceed at the expense of this association to explore Nebraska and select a townsite and report at an adjourned meeting to be held at Omaha City on the 20th of May next, which report shall be adopted as the townsite for the town of . . . . . .

Sixth: Such townsite shall be surveyed, lithographed and divided into such number of shares as may be agreed upon, which with the claims adjacent thereto shall be the property of this association, and such number of shares as may be thought best can be sold and the proceeds of such shares applied to the carrying out of the purposes of this association.

Seventh: Assessments may be made if necessary from time to time for such expenses and improvements as a majority of the members of the association may declare necessary.

Eighth: Members who do not in person or by substitute locate upon said townsite or some claim of the association adjacent thereto within two months from the time of the report of the locating committee shall forfeit all right of membership; unless he shall be justified in his absence by the association.

Ninth: These articles may be amended or others substituted therefor by a two-thirds vote of the members, provided always that requisite notice of such proposed alteration of these articles has been given to the association at least two weeks previous to the adoption of the same and the members thereof sufficiently notified of such meeting.

Tenth: Each member shall have the benefit of such improvements as exceed in value those made by others of the association, to be ascertained and allowed in such equitable manner as may be agreed upon.

The above articles were fully discussed separately and were finally adopted unanimously. When, on motion, the secretary was ordered to copy the same preparatory to receiving signatures, and the meeting adjourned to three o'clock P.M. for that purpose.

JOHN MCCONIHE, Secretary.

At the adjourned meeting, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the articles of the association were presented for signatures and were signed by the following named persons: E. A. Wilmans, Calvin Miller, E. M. Drake, William F. Buffington, John McConihe, Timothy Elliott, M. C. Barr, Gilbert T. Loomis, George W. Robb, John B. Kellogg, John Henn, Jacob Talman, Albert Towle, Bayard T. Wise, Herman M. Reynolds, Bennett Pike, John Brown, George H. Tobey, A. Nelson, J. F. King,

Norman Colson, John P. Cadman, Phineas W. Hitchcock, George A. Jackson, M. W. Ross, Edward Stewart, Jefferson B. Weston, Jesse Spielman, Jacob Zolinger, John F. Kinney, Richard Northrup, James J. Raridan, Alexander McCready, Justus Townsend.

Later, and before the boat reached its destination in Omaha, Isaac M. Steele, Alexander Lewis, Charles Dripps, James M. Green, Daniel P. Taylor, Obediah H. Hewett, John N. Newton, Joseph R. Nelson, and Logan D. Cameron were admitted to membership in the association, and at a meeting of the board of directors held in Omaha, on May 22, 1857, George D. Bonham and Joseph Milligan also were admitted into full membership in the association on the same terms as the others, namely, payment into the treasury of the sum of one hundred dollars. And at a meeting of the board of directors held at Beatrice it was "resolved that H. F. Cook become a member of the association upon payment of assessment (in place of Mr. Dripps, whose share has been forfeited) and upon payment of fifty dollars additional." As far as the records go there were no other formal additions to the membership of the association, but it is an historical fact that Nathan and William Blakely, together with Isma P. Mumford and wife, arrived on the townsite of Beatrice on July 17, 1857, and became thereafter closely identified with the history and destiny of Beatrice.

At the third meeting of the association held on board the Hannibal April 28, 1857, a census of the membership was taken with respect to their occupations and it was found that there were six lawyers, four physicians, three merchants, a mason, a bricklayer, an engineer, and a surveyor, together with a number of members without expressed occupations.

Before the "Hannibal" reached Nebraska City a committee consisting of Bennett Pike, M. W. Ross, F. A. Wilmans, Bayard T. Wise, Jefferson B. Weston, and Judge John F. Kinney, was chosen, known as the locating committee, in conformity with the 5th subdivision of the articles of association, "to explore Nebraska and select a townsite and report at an adjourned meeting (of the association) to be held at Omaha on the 20th day of May next, which report shall be adopted as a townsite," etc. At Nebraska City this committee left the boat and proceeded to discharge its duty. It divided itself into two sub-committees, Wise, Kinney, and Wilmans formed one of these, and, proceeding directly west from Nebraska City they passed over the spot where Lincoln, the state capital, now stands. The other three members of the committee, Weston, Pike, and Ross, hired a team at Nebraska City, and, with Harrison F. Cook as driver, began their search at once for a suitable location for the prospective city. Striking in a southwesterly direction, without other guide than the sectional corner stones planted by the government surveyors, they proceeded through the bright May weather to examine the country through which they took their course with the single purpose of choosing the most desirable site for a city. After several days of intelligent wandering over the springing prairies, in the brilliant sunshine lands, on a late afternoon in early May, they pitched camp on the banks of Indian creek, near where the Kees Manufacturing Company's buildings now stand, and within the present limits of the city of Beatrice. A little investigation convinced them that their quest was at an end. These clear-visioned young men noted the wide sweep of rolling plain extending in all directions from the confluence of the two streams where their camp was made; they marked the near neighborhood of several well wooded streams flowing through fertile lands into the Big Blue river; they observed that this stream, with its rock bottom and steep shores possessed at this point ample facilities and power for milling and manufacturing purposes, and that nature had given the adjacent land grades and levels that rendered the work of building a city an easy task.

Having carefully noted all these things they began their journey to Omaha, stopping a few hours on the way with John Pethoud and his friend Edward C. Austin, who were engaged in building a hewed-log house on Mr. Pethoud's claim, four and one-half miles north

of the prospective city, on this side of the Clay county line.

The entire committee having assembled in Omaha and agreed upon its report, the members of the association were called together to receive it, on the 20th day of May, 1857, at the hour of one o'clock in the forenoon, in the office of the territorial secretary of state. The report was brief and was probably written by that able young lawyer, Bennett Pike. It reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, locating committee of the Nebraska Association, after thoroughly exploring Johnson, Gage, Clay, Lancaster and

JULIA BEATRICE KINNEY
1860

Cass counties, find the most eligible site for a town near the center of Gage county. The advantages of this place consist in its location between two tributaries of the Blue and at the junction of the western branch with the main river; in the great beauty and fertility of the adjacent prairies, in the abundance of wood and timber, in the proximity of stone fit for building purposes, and the favorable indications of coal. The prairie is four miles in width from creek to creek and is skirted on either side by the timber line along the banks of the above mentioned streams. The timber is generally oak, walnut, hickory, ash, cottonwood and elm, and is of a better quality and finer size than any other we saw in our explorations. The beauty of the situation, the central position in the county, and quality and quantity of the timber, the superior nature and location of the intervening prairie and the large extent of country tributary to it, determined us in the selection of this place as possessing all the requisites and advantages necessary to the founding and building of a prosperous and thriving inland town. All of which is very respectfully submitted, with an accompanying map of the place.

Bennett Pike.	M. W. Ross.
F. A. Wilmans.	B. T. Wise.
J. B. Weston.	J. F. Kinney.

This report was unanimously adopted and a committee appointed whose duty it was to ascertain and properly designate the exact location of the proposed townsite and have the same surveyed. Another committee was appointed, charged with the duty of reporting at an early date to the association a name for this embryo town. The last named committee, as a result of its deliberations, at a meeting of the association on May 21st, reported the names of "Wheatland" and "Beatrice." The latter was the name of Judge Kinney's eldest daughter, Julia Beatrice Kinney, and it was adopted by a vote of sixteen to nine. The association, after appointing a committee, headed by Bennett Pike, to purchase for its use a steam saw mill, adjourned to meet at Beatrice on the 27th day of July, 1857.

Most of the members of the association made their way to the proposed townsite during the month of June, and by the 4th day of July nearly all were assembled on the original virgin townsite of Beatrice. They proceeded to celebrate the national holiday, and this was the first Fourth of July celebration ever held in Gage county. Judge Kinney, who had located at Nebraska City in the practice of the law, drove across the country with his family to participate in this celebration. Though the participants were few in number, patriotic enthusiasm was much in evidence. Miss Julia Beatrice Kinney, the seventeen-year-old daughter of the president of the association, in a pleasing speech presented to her namesake the national flag which had been made by the ladies of the association at Nebraska City, and Bennett Pike replied.

Most of the members remained on the ground until the 27th day of July, the date to which the association had adjourned at Omaha in May to meet at the townsite of Beatrice, and when on that day the president of the asso-

ciation, Judge Kinney, directed his scholarly secretary, John McConihe, to call the roll of the members the following gentlemen responded to their names: Messrs. Pike, Towle, Wise, Weston, Jackson, Hewett, Elliott, Joseph Nelson, Northrop, Townsend, Tobey, Tailor, Wilmans, Ross, Reynolds, Johnson, Miller, Brown, Loomis, Green, and Bonham. Thirteen members, namely, Kellogg, A. Nelson, Barr, Cadman, Hitchcock, Henn, Dripps, Stewart, Zolinger, King, Raridon, Robb, and Buffington, were represented by proxy.

Judge Kinney then announced that the site selected for the location of the town was "one mile from east to west and one-half mile from north to south." Some discussion ensued, during which Mr. Bonham moved "that the townsite be so moved as to conform with the government survey and to consist of four hundred acres." After further discussion of the site of the proposed town "the whole matter was referred back to the locating committee". On the 28th day of July, that committee reported, recommending that "the eastern boundary be placed on the section line and that an addition be taken in on the west sufficient to cross the river." This report was accepted and O. B. Hewett was thereupon appointed lot agent "to donate town lots and that he be allowed to donate no more than three lots in any one block, and that no lots be donated except to actual settlers who will build thereon." A resolution was adopted that "the size of the town lots be fifty feet front by one hundred and forty feet deep, with streets eighty feet wide and alleys twenty feet wide, running one way." The Rev. D. H. May, the grandfather of Earl and Paul Marvin, was given five lots "for his kindness in coming to Beatrice and preaching the first sermon in town." A resolution was adopted donating "one thousand dollars to any competent man who will take the mill, erect the same immediately and run it under certain specified restrictions," and "Mr. Towle was allowed the privilege of occupying the association log house by unanimous consent until further action upon the subject." William H. Brodhead, who had previously been selected to survey the townsite, at this meeting of the association, July 28, 1857, was "allowed one hundred dollars and expenses for laying out the townsite and making three plats of the same" and Mr. Bonham was appointed "to confer with him about selecting lands." A half block was donated and set apart for school purposes and a committee appointed to select land for a cemetery. Mr. Pike was empowered to sell the mill if opportunity offered, and Hewett was directed as lot agent to donate two lots to the "first blacksmith who would erect a blacksmith shop in town." At an adjourned meeting of the association held July 29th at three o'clock in the afternoon, the location of the townsite was taken up and finally it was resolved "that the townsite be removed to the north so as to correspond with the government survey."

The townsite finally selected comprised the southeast quarter of section thirty-three and the southwest quarter of section thirty-four, in township four north, and range six east of the sixth principal meridian, comprising three hundred and twenty acres. It was surveyed and platted by William H. Brodhead, at that time a resident of Nebraska City, and on the 13th day of August, 1859, it was formally entered under the national townsite act, by Dr. Herman M. Reynolds, as mayor of the city of Beatrice, at the land office at Brownville, where at the same time a plat of the new town was filed, as in case of such entries the law required.

The reader has now looked upon the origin of the city of Beatrice. Glancing backward across the intervening three score years from his felicitous surroundings, it may be difficult for him to visualize the unpromising conditions that beset this beautiful city at the hour of its birth. Planted in the midst of what was virtually a primitive waste, far removed from even the confines of civilized life, no one who was not endowed with the prevision of the pioneer could have foreseen the bright future that awaited it.

The Nebraska Association continued in business until about 1870, when Solon M. Hazen of Blue Springs, who was one of the county commissioners at that time, was selected as a

referee to make a division amongst the persistent members of the unsold and unclaimed lots included in the original townsite. Unfortunately his assignment of lots is not available for the purposes of this history. Few, however, of the original company were left to claim their proportionate share of the residue of the company assets. Having accomplished its original purpose and witnessed the full fruition of its hopes, the association, following Hazen's report, formally and voluntarily disbanded.

When we consider that the title to the ninety-four blocks comprising the original townsite of Beatrice, and now by far the most populous and valuable portions of the city, rests upon the entry made by Dr. Herman M. Reynolds at the United States land office at Brownville, on the 12th day of September, 1859, under the act of congress dated May 25, 1844, commonly known as the townsite act, and the steady, unwavering zeal of the body of men who for years held the destiny of our city in their hands, we are bound to yield to the founders of Beatrice ungrudging credit for all they did here. It is to their energy, enthusiasm, and prevision that we owe not only the origin of Beatrice, but also in a large measure its prosperity and happiness. Their names should be ever spoken with reverence and respect by all who take the slightest interest in her welfare, or who feel a just pride in the fact that she is as a city set upon a hill, whose light can not be hid.

CHAPTER XV

NARRATIVE OF MRS. JULIA BEATRICE (KINNEY) METCALF

[The following narrative, by Mrs. Julia Beatrice (Kinney) Metcalf, for whom the city of Beatrice was named, was prepared at the request of the author of this book. As far as known, it is the only contemporary narrative of the voyage of the "Hannibal" and the founding of Beatrice which could be procured now from any living person. Mrs. Metcalf when a girl became a resident, with her parents, of Nebraska City, in May, 1857. Later she became the wife of Julian Metcalf, a pioneer banker of Nebraska City. Until 1893 her home was in Nebraska City, when Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf removed to the Pacific coast. She is spending her declining years in the city of Portland, Oregon.]

This brief sketch of the founding of Beatrice and the events that led to it must unavoidably be somewhat biographical. To recall the incidents and experiences of sixty years ago is not an easy task, as some scenes stand out very vividly, while others have faded and grown dim.

My native state is Ohio, and Mount Vernon my native town, where I first saw the light October 29, 1839. When I was four years old my father, J. F. Kinney, dazzled by the star of empire which had led him from the Atlantic and was destined to lead him to the far-off Pacific, gathered his little family together and moved to Iowa. Here, in the small town of West Point, we lived until I was in my fourteenth year. I was always kept in school, there being an excellent one in the place, and I do not remember ever missing a day either by illness or by the spring desire to play hooky when the flowers came and the birds sang. Not but that I had that desire, but we were taught obedience in those days.

At this time my father received the appointment of chief justice of Utah territory, which he accepted, and a change of base became necessary. After a family council it was decided that my school-life must be continued. My sister, two years my junior, now Mrs. J. A. Ware of Nebraska City, was to go on the wonderful journey across the plains with my parents and the three boys, still younger. But I was taken by my father to Georgetown, D. C., a suburb of Washington, and placed in Miss English's seminary, where I found myself in a typical southern atmosphere, my companions being daughters of old southern families. I was the only western girl there, and at first was looked at askance as coming from a dare-devil region of wild Indians, tomahawks, and stampeding buffaloes. This school during the Civil war was converted into a hospital, and Miss Alcott wrote her "Hospital Sketches" from her experiences as a nurse in this and other Washington hospitals. Georgetown Heights was the fashionable place of residence for government foreign officials in 1854. Here General Badiscoe, the Russian ambassador, lived, having married a former student of Miss English's school, a beautiful young girl called when in Russia "the American rose."

My school life in Georgetown was both instructive and interesting; I was in Washington during part of two presidential administrations, Pierce and Buchanan, and recall Mrs. Pierce's sad face, in her deep mourning for the loss of her son; and also Miss Lane, President Buchanan's handsome niece, who presided at the White House during his administration. On the President's reception days we of the senior class were permitted to attend the state functions at rare intervals, chaperoned by a teacher.

It all looked brilliant and gorgeous to our young eyes.

In 1856 I was graduated, being honored as valedictorian and receiving the highest prize in music. My father, having returned from Utah, came on immediately for me, and once more we were in our old home,—but how changed everything looked to me, the town so much smaller than I remembered it. Even our pleasant country home had dwindled,—the ceilings were lower, the rooms smaller; we judge all things by comparison.

The star of empire still drawing my father westward, the farm was sold, and in 1857 we all embarked at Fort Madison on the Mississippi for Nebraska the "land of broad rivers." The trip down the river was uneventful. On reaching St. Louis, the "Hannibal," long to be remembered, a large freight and passenger boat, awaited us. I suppose it was named for the great Carthaginian general who amid superhuman difficulties crossed the Alps in a week's less time than it took us to reach our goal on the Missouri river.

What a memorable journey that was! Three hundred human beings of all nationalities crowded the boat to its capacity. The morning was a typical April one, the sky bright with the mists from the two rivers floating away and the trees and grasses sparkling from the past night's shower. All were in high spirits as we started from the wharf, saluted by boats as we passed; one having once heard the "Hannibal's" tremendous blast as she answered the signals can never forget it,—hoarse, deep as the lowest trombone tone, it thundered with impressive self-importance. Thus with waving hands and handkerchiefs we passed up the river on our journey to the unknown.

When night came the "Hannibal" rested from her labors, not daring to brave in the darkness her vicious enemies, the great snags and sandbars that surrounded her, thick as the "Thousand Islands" but without their beauty.

JULIA BEATRICE (KINNEY) METCALF, 1909

JULIA BEATRICE (KINNEY) METCALF, 1878

Remember, there were no brilliant searchlights in those faraway days. The first and last impressions of the "Big Muddy" were snags, ugly, cruel-looking things, grotesque in shape, and countless sandbars, while ever floating swiftly by were ashen gray logs, hurrying to the end, wherever that might be. It gave one a dizzy, sickening feeling to watch them. But turn your eyes from this treacherous, mighty river to the banks on either side, where were vine-covered trees, the tender spring verdure, the early flowers, the waving grasses;—all of which delighted us; at night the whippoorwills sang, and at dawn we heard innumerable birds hidden in the tree-tops.

Sometimes when the boat landed we went exploring along the shore, gathering the early wild flowers but always keeping our ears open for the tremendous blast which hurried us back to our floating home. Once on landing at a small town, two boys, eight and ten years old, went ashore to buy some shoes which they sadly needed. After the purchase a most exciting dog-fight took place; the boat whistled, but the boys, oblivious to all but the absorbing event at hand, heard it not, and the boat went on its way. Soon however the mother, missing her children, raised a cry of despair, and the mighty "Hannibal," after a mile or so, reversed her course and picked up the penitent boys, who explained that they "wanted to stay and see the end of the fight."

The chief amusements among us were chess, checkers, and dancing the old-fashioned quadrilles, for round dances were not considered proper in those days, and cards were forbidden; in fact, I believe that not one of us young people knew one card from another. So the days dragged on. It was always interesting to watch the great spars as they worked to free us from the sandbars, to hear the signals ring and the shouting of the men as as orders were given; there was great rejoicing when we were on our way once more, until the creaking and quivering of the boat told us we were again aground.

It was when our steamer was on one of these sandbars, the worst we had yet encountered, that the organization was formed for the purpose of locating a town in Nebraska; a written constitution and by-laws were signed by some thirty-five men, and an exploring committee was appointed. Little did they realize then that they were making history and that a beautiful city was to spring magically on the virgin soil of the then unknown land.

These gentlemen were men of sterling worth, possessing all the energy, mental attainments and courage necessary for a frontier life, as time has proved. Their names are all emblazoned in the annals of the State History of Nebraska, so it is not necessary for me to name them here. I distinctly remember the Towle family as adding so much to our social life on the steamer, and afterward being most active in all good works and hospitality in Beatrice.

After three long weeks we reached Nebraska City, where we landed with joy; we drove at once to the "City Hotel," a small, frame, two-story building which afterward fell down and was replaced by a substantial brick hotel. The next thing to do was to find a house to live in, not an easy matter, as houses were few and far between. We found a small frame house with one room and a shed at the back, which served for kitchen and dining room. This rented for twenty-five dollars a month. Here we took up our new life. We partitioned the one room with a curtain, and this recess was my sanctum. I enjoyed playing stage effects going in and out of that curtain, and on the whole found it more interesting that a well appointed bedroom.

On July 4, 1857, the interesting ceremony of christening the new city which the company organized on the boat and had located on the Blue river, was to be celebrated, and our family, with many others, started well equipped for the land of promise. We had all the comforts and conveniences necessary for camp life, and were in joyful mood and high anticipation as we left Nebraska City behind us. The weather was perfect, for where will you find more sunshine or purer air than in our noble state? The vast, gently rolling prairies seemed like petrified waves of a gentle sea. The waving grasses, often as high

as our heads, gave a wonderful effect of light and shade in their graceful undulations as the light winds passed over them.

As we journeyed we halted to gather the wild flowers, so beautiful and abundant. Here we found the blue and yellow violets, the fragrant wild roses ranging in color from the deepest tone of pink to the white, their color kissed from them by the sun. We decorated our horses and wagons with the Indian paintbrush, flaming like fire in the grass, and the golden rod, now our national flower. Sunflowers were everywhere, giving a vivid touch of color to the landscape; we went through avenues of them. Yellow and purple seemed to predominate.

Who of us can forget the first sunset on that vast uninhabited plain? As the sun sank the air was filled with a radiant glow, the hills were touched with red and violet and purple tints. A silence fell upon our little party as we gazed; the sweet song of a thrush thrilled us as though it were an evening hymn of praise. How small and material seemed our petty lives in so much grandeur! But alas, we were awakened from this poet's dream by the rattling of dishes, the steam of the coffee, the buzz of talk and the care of the horses, and as the sunset faded we ate our supper, for mortals must eat, so "it readeth in the law." Soon our camp in that vast wilderness, with no human beings but ourselves to desecrate nature's primitive domain, rested in sweet and refreshing sleep.

We were early awakened by the birds. They seemed to fill the air with melody; meadowlarks led the chorus, but over and above them all, poised high in mid-air, a bird hovered, pouring forth the most delicious trills, cadences and sparkling scales. The song floated down to us like liquid music. I think it must have been the Missouri skylark, Neocorys Spraguei, described by Audubon and by Elliott Coues.[1] "No other bird music heard in our land compares with the wonderful strains of this songster; there is something not of earth in the melody, coming from above, yet from no visible source. The notes are something indescribable, but once heard they can never beforgotten; their volume and penetration are truly wonderful; they are neither loud nor strong, yet the whole air seems thrilled with the tender strains, and the delightful melody continues long unbroken. It is only uttered when the birds are soaring." They make their nests in the prairie grasses, but are very difficult to find. We could do nothing while this heavenly song lasted, and when it ended we turned reluctantly to our morning tasks. We had an early start, hoping to reach our destination that evening. The wild flowers seemed more and more abundant. The purple vetch, columbine, phlox, coloring great fields with blue. There was blue-eyed grass, and, as if to enhance the delicious blueness, we heard the quiet little song of the blue-bird. Overhead flew great flocks of blackbirds, all varieties, the red-shouldered ones, the yellow-headed, and the bronze variety. Then further on we found great patches of the Prairie Snow, Euphorbia, making the ground white with a very faint tinge of pale green. We did not reach the Blue river as soon as we had hoped, so we had another glowing sunset, another song of birds, and through the night we heard the whippoorwill.

The morning brought us to our goal. The view was entrancing, the valley with its glistening river, the wooded banks, the sloping hills. No narrow outlook met our gaze, but far as the eye could reach was the limitless range of beauty, calm, peaceful with the smile of God resting upon it. All involuntarily exclaimed "Could a more beautiful spot for a city be found anywhere?"

On the 4th of July we assembled for the formal presentation of the nation's flag given by the ladies of the company. I had the honor of making the presentation. I well remember going down by the river, sitting among the willows and invoking the muse, which resulted in some four short verses of salutation to the town to be. Of course if I had dreamed that the occasion was to be historic I would have preserved them, unworthy as they were, but after the ceremony

[1] See Coues, Birds of the Northwest, pp. 42-45.

was over they were thrown on the bright, flowing river, which, unlike the traditional "Sweet Afton," bore the song of praise away from its inspirer. Mr. Pike, a cultured young lawyer, replied, somewhat embarrassed I thought; probably the combination of the Stars and Stripes and a young lady overcame him. Beatrice was christened, and my name forever honored. A shaking of hands and congratulations followed, and plans of future work were talked over by the company. All these particulars have been told so well in historical sketches of Nebraska that I will not attempt them. Our return was uneventful, but with the little pioneer party we had formed lifelong friendships which I recall to this distant day with pleasure.

Of course the habits and customs of many of the early settlers in Gage county, breaking the sod and building their cabins, impressed me as somewhat peculiar; as all nationalities were represented, this was to be expected. I remember driving with my father far out on the prairie and stopping at a cabin for dinner. Boiled potatoes in their jackets and fried pork (a good deal cheaper then than now), with saleratus biscuit very yellow with the superfluous amount of soda, made our bill-of-fare. When the good woman of the house asked me if I would take "long shortening or short shortening" in my coffee I deliberated as to what this might mean, but thought the safest way was to say "short" as that would mean less of whatever it might be, and some very coarse looking brown sugar was put into my cup. My father not liking the looks of this, said in his polite, old-school manner, "I will take long shortening, Madam, if you please"; whereupon a couple of tablespoons of very black looking molasses were poured into his coffee. The look of consternation on his face and of mirth on mine fortunately were unobserved by the hostess. Useless to say the coffee was left untasted. Here too I first heard the expression "powerful weak," speaking of a man suffering with ague, then very prevalent in some parts of the country. The phrase struck me as being comically contradictory, but physiologically it means I suppose that the weakness holds the man powerfully; at least it might be so explained. These same people in course of years developed a fine farm by their thrift and industry, and educated their children, who are now doubtless driving their autos and enjoying all the luxuries of modern life.

In 1861 I did what young ladies have done since the world began,— I married. My husband Julian Metcalf was a banker and greatly interested in our growing state.

My first visit to Beatrice was in 1864, I think: it was with my father, who, with a light top-buggy and a pair of mettlesome horses, invited me to accompany him. It was a perfect October day and I was more than delighted to go and see my beautiful namesake again. We made the drive in one day; the fast livery team seemed as fresh when we reached Beatrice as when we started. I found great changes in these few years, the town developing substantially and rapidly. We spent only a day there, as my father's business required no longer time, and we started early so as to reach Nebraska City before dark. This proved a memorable drive. When we had driven several miles we saw a vast sea of fire sweeping toward us with a terrific roar. We were on a hill which gave us a full view. The grass, dry as tinder, eight and even ten feet high, made rich fuel for the flames. It was a race for life. My father turned the horses and urged them to their utmost speed. The flying, blackened cinders of the burnt grass flew by us and over us, we could hear the rushing of the fire-storm and even feel its heat as it gained upon us. The horses seemed to understand the danger and, maddened by the crackling and roar of the flames, they raced as they had never raced before. In places, burning wisps of grass carried by the fierce wind started fires on either side of us, but fortunately not near the road. With great relief we reached Beatrice in safety, for it was out of the immediate path of the fire; only the little school house was endangered, and as the fire swept over it we watched with fear and trembling for its fate. For a moment it was enveloped by the

flames, with the roar and speed of a railroad train, and as they passed we saw the little frame school house unharmed; the very fury and swiftness of the fire saved it. We resumed our journey, and for twenty miles we traveled through a black, smoking country. In places we saw deer that had been chased by the fire lying by the roadside too exhausted to move as we drove by.

As night fell, one of the traces became unfastened and hitting the horse frightened him, and they both started on a wild run. They left the road and, dashing over hillocks and rough places, nearly upset the light buggy. My father was thrown out. This left the reins under the horses' feet and they plunged madly on through the darkness. My only thought was to cling to the buggy. In a short time, long to me, they broke away from it and I was left sitting in it, unharmed. At once I started in search of my father, whom I found unconscious; he had struck on his head and it was bleeding. Rubbing him and calling him, I succeeded at last in rousing him, and, urging him to walk, we started toward a distant light, which proved to be a farm house. There we were able to find a wagon and driver to take us to Nebraska City, only three miles distant.

Thus ended my first and last visit to Beatrice. But I have always kept in touch with its progress and development, and have pictures of its handsome homes and fine business buildings. If I ever go eastward again I shall certainly visit the beautiful city by the Blue, of which I am naturally proud, as I appreciate the honor conferred on me by its name.

In 1893 we moved to the Pacific coast, where my three children, two daughters and a son, were living, also my parents. We made San Diego our home, and at times Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon. At the latter place my beloved husband passed away in his eighty-third year. Blessed with perfect health and strength, surrounded with loving children, I am indeed most thankful to the Giver of every good and perfect gift who guides us all in love and wisdom.

CHAPTER XVI

FOUNDERS OF BEATRICE

JOHN FITCH KINNEY — JOHN MCCONIHE — ALBERT TOWLE — JOSEPH RUTHERFORD NELSON — OBEDIAH BROWN HEWETT — GILBERT T. LOOMIS — OLIVER TOWNSEND — HARRISON F. COOK — DR. BAYARD T. WISE — JOSEPH MILLIGAN — BENNETT PIKE — JEFFERSON B. WESTON — WILLIAM H. BRODHEAD — DR. HERMAN M. REYNOLDS

It was no ordinary body of men who in April, 1857, while passengers on the old river boat "Hannibal," resolved to cut loose from civilization and seek fortune and happiness in that region of our country which was even then designated in the school geographies as the "Great American Desert." Although there were many other river boats beside the "Hannibal" plying between St. Louis and the Upper Missouri, we nowhere else have any account of the formation from their passenger lists of any organization similar to the Nebraska Association.

It took courage of no mean order and optimism of large proportions to hold men of learning and ability, such as for the most part composed the membership of the Beatrice Townsite Company, to what must have appeared to a reflecting mind a forlorn hope. As far as we are acquainted with their history, we must accord to them the qualities of the true pioneer, who, scorning the hard, uninviting surroundings of the moment, sees, in the changing years, mighty commonwealths develop from primeval conditions. On the date of the actual founding of Beatrice, July 27, 1857, there were not to exceed, besides themselves, twenty-five white men in Gage county as originally created. There had never been a bushel of wheat, a bushel of corn, a potato, or any sort of product raised from the soil of the county by the hand of man outside of the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation. The first furrows had been drawn through the virgin soil in the spring of that year, by John Pethoud. There was not a government mail route or carrier, not a single stage line, not a broken road traveled by white men in the county; excepting Gideon Bennett's Indian trading post, a mile and a quarter southwest of the present town of Liberty, there was not a single place within the boundaries of Gage county where a man could buy a knife or any other article of common use, or a meal, or a garment.

A number of those who subscribed to the articles of association, or who were afterward added to the membership by the board of directors, never came to Beatrice or attempted to profit by their connection with the company, and under the eighth section of the articles of association they forfeited their membership. They were Edward Stewart, Jesse Spielman, E. M. Drake, Jacob Zolinger, William E. Buffington, Richard Northup, Norman Colson, J. P. Cadman, Alex. McCleary, Phineas W. Hitchcock, George W. Robb, John Henn, Jacob Talman, John B. Kellogg, A. Nelson, W. C. Barr, and George W. Dripps. The subsequent history of most of these persons is unknown to this historian. John B. Kellogg finally settled at Tabor, Fremont county, Iowa. Phineas W. Hitchcock, who seems never to have acted with the old townsite company after the "Hannibal" tied up to the Missouri river bank at Omaha, was represented at the meeting of the association July 27, 1857, on the townsite of Beatrice, by John

McConihe, who held his proxy. He was a young lawyer who found in the growing city of Omaha a most attractive field for the exercise of his talents and calling. He early obtained prominence as a politician, and in 1860 he was a delegate to the national Republican convention, at Chicago, which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States. Afterward he was United States marshal of Nebraska territory and territorial delegate to congress. In 1871, he was chosen as a Republican senator from the state of Nebraska, and served six years in that exalted position. He died of appendicitis, at Omaha, in 1881, in the forty-ninth year of his age. For several years he was proprietor of the Omaha *Republican*, the mouthpiece of the Republican party in Nebraska, and one of the leading newspapers in this state. His son, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, is now serving his second term in the United States senate from Nebraska. Whether J. P. Cadman, who was one of the original townsite company and dropped out at Omaha or Nebraska City, was the John Cadman who, in 1859, settled in the neighborhood of Yankee Hill, in old Clay county, who was a prominent member of the territorial legislature in 1864, and who, after the partition of Clay county, became a prominent citizen of Lancaster county, is unknown to this writer. The first president of the Nebraska Association, John Fitch Kinney, at the time of its formation was a man of mature years, and not only the most experienced in human affairs, but probably, also the most variously endowed of all members of that organization.

John Fitch Kinney

Born in New Haven, Oswego county, New York, April 7, 1816, Judge Kinney was a trifle past forty-one years of age on the 22d day of 1857, when he was chosen as the president of the Nebraska Association. He obtained his elementary education in the public schools of western New York, and at the age of fifteen entered a private school in New Haven, where he remained six months, after which he entered a private school at Hannibal, New York. After a year spent there, he enrolled himself as a student in the Rensselaer Academy at Oswego, a famous institution of learning in its day, where he remained two years. Forty years afterward he attended a reunion of its old teachers and pupils on the classic grounds of his alma mater. This proved to be a notable gathering of several hundred persons, including lawyers, judges, doctors, authors, ministers, lawmakers, and teachers, the occasion being the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the academy. At this meeting Judge Kinney was chosen president of the alumni association.

In 1835 Judge Kinney began the study of the law, as a student in the office of Judge Orville Robinson, in the city of Mexico, state of New York. After eighteen months' application to his studies, in September, 1837, he removed to Marysville, Ohio, where he formed the acquaintance of Augustus Hall, a rising young lawyer of that city, with whom he studied law for a year; he was then admitted to the bar in Ohio. On January 29, 1839, he married his preceptor's sister, Miss Hannah D. Hall.

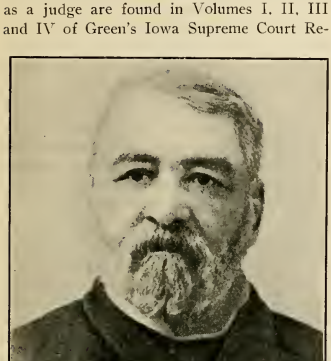
In 1842, another brother-in-law, Orville Hall, left Ohio and settled in the territory of Iowa, and in 1854 he was appointed by Franklin Pierce, President of the United States, to the office of chief justice of the supreme court of the territory of Nebraska. He died at Bellevue, in January, 1861, leaving two daughters and a son. The latter was the late Richard S. Hall, who for many years was a prominent lawyer of the Omaha bar and was at one time a partner in the practice of law of the late John M. Thurston, a former United States senator from Nebraska.

In 1840 Judge Kinney began the practice of his profession at Mount Vernon, Ohio, where his success was immediate. But the lure of the great west descended upon him and in 1844 he too migrated to the territory of Iowa, where he entered at once upon an active professional and political career. The mere enumeration of the professional, civic, and political honors that fell to him would be lengthy and impressive. He was an hon-

ored member of the national Democratic party, was one of its most trusted advisers, and was frequently its candidate for important offices. Before he had attained to the age of thirty-three years he had been twice secretary of the legislative council of Iowa, prosecuting attorney of his judicial district and justice of the supreme court. His opinions as a judge are found in Volumes I, II, III and IV of Green's Iowa Supreme Court Reports. In 1853 the President of the United States appointed him chief justice of the supreme court of Utah, a position which, though attended with much danger, was ably and conscientiously filled by him for two years. In the spring of 1856 he returned to Iowa, and in April, 1857, as we have already seen, he and his family were passengers on the old river boat "Hannibal," bound for the great new territory of Nebraska.

Judge Kinney's destination was Nebraska City, and on the arrival of the "Hannibal" at that little hamlet, nestled amongst the Missouri river bluffs, in the latter part of April, 1857, they went ashore and took up their residence amongst the few pioneers that had gathered at that spot since May, 1854. Here for thirty-three years, and until the spring of 1890, he made his home. He engaged in the practice of the law, with other occupations, during the greater portion of his life, and during the formative period of Nebraska's history he was not only active in his profession, but he was also one of the most useful and valued citizens of the entire state. He was a warm personal friend of the late J. Sterling Morton, and in the early days these two men bore the heat and burden of the Democratic politics in Nebraska. In 1890, he removed with his wife and a portion of his family to San Diego, California, where in 1895, Mrs. Kinney passed away, at the age of seventy-nine years. August 17, 1902, she was followed to the grave by her distinguished husband, ripe with years and clothed with honors worthily achieved and modestly worn.

Judge Kinney to the last moment of his life remained a steady friend of the little city of Beatrice. He retained his interest in the townsite till it had passed the experimental



JOHN FITCH KINNEY

HANNAH D. (HALL) KINNEY

stage and was a frequent visitor here until he removed to California. The existence of our lovely city is much indebted to his prevision, ripe judgment, and persistent energy.

John McConihe

The first secretary of the townsite association, John McConihe, was a member of an old New York family. He was born in the city of Troy, Rensselaer county, New York, September 4, 1834. When sixteen years of age he entered Union College at Schenectady, New York, from which famous institution he graduated in 1853. He studied law with his father at Troy for a few months, and then

General John McConihe

entered the Albany Law School, from which he graduated in 1855, and immediately opened an office in his native city. He had already established a practice and had been elected a member of the school board of Troy when he became imbued with a desire to try his fortunes in the "Far West." Bidding farewell to his ancestral home and making his way to St. Louis, we find him on board the old Missouri river boat "Hannibal", in April, 1857, bound for the new territory of Nebraska. He attended the preliminary meeting of the Nebraska Association, and was chosen its secretary. He participated actively in the meeting and was a member of the committee appointed to prepare the articles of association. After the organization was perfected he was chosen as a member of its board of directors and the minutes both of the organization itself and of the official board are in the scholarly handwriting of John McConihe from April 27, to July 28, 1857, these being signed by him as secretary.

Before coming to Beatrice from Omaha with the other members of the association, he had arranged to enter upon the practice of the law there. Although Omaha was at that time little more than a western village, perched on the bank of the Missouri river, it was the capital of the new territory and a most promising location for a young lawyer. After July 28, 1857, his name no longer appears in the records of the proceedings of the Nebraska Association or of its board of directors, but he complied with all the requirements of the organization, received his distributive share of the town lots of Beatrice, and it was only in recent years that his interests in the city were finally disposed of by his relatives.

Having assisted in placing the infant town upon its feet, he returned to Omaha and entered upon the practice of his profession. He was a man of many activities. In 1858 he formed a copartnership with some one of the numerous freighters or freighting concerns then to be found at every Missouri river town in eastern Nebraska, and he seems to have participated in the business until the breaking out of the Civil war, in 1861. Politically he was a Democrat, and in 1858 he was appointed private secretary to Governor Richardson; he afterward held the same position under Governor Black until the end of the latter's term. In 1860 he was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Omaha, and within the same year he was appointed adjutant general of the territory, subsequently leading an expedition against the Pawnee Indians.

On the breaking out of the Civil war he

raised a company for the First Nebraska Regiment, and as its captain he participated with the regiment in its Missouri campaign. He was detailed to attend to certain military matters connected with the Department of Missouri at Washington. While there in the discharge of his duty, he became ill, in February, 1862, and immediately left for his home in Troy, where he was critically ill with typhoid fever for several weeks. On recovering his health, he rejoined his regiment, the day before the great battle of Shiloh, and participated with it in that terrible conflict. He was severely wounded in the left arm and while at home slowly recovering from his injury, he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment of New York Volunteers. In October, 1862, he went with his regiment to Washington. He later saw service in Florida, North Carolina, Bermuda Hundred, and other places. On the resignation of Colonel Buell he was made colonel of his regiment and later became a brigadier general. While leading his brigade in a desperate charge against the "Bloody Angle" at the battle of Cold Harbor, this gallant young officer was shot through the heart. With an involuntary exclamation, he died instantly. His last orders, given in the heat of battle a moment before his death, were "Cease firing. Fix bayonets. Charge. Dress up on the colors. Do not leave the colors."

Thus perished the gallant, handsome, scholarly John McConihe, a man greatly admired by all who knew him, greatly loved by his friends and kindred and deeply mourned by his native city. His remains lie under the monument in the McConihe family burial plot which overlooks the lordly Hudson from a height near the busy city of Troy. During the brief period in which he participated in the founding of Beatrice, he exhibited a genial, friendly nature that won the kindly regard of every member of the association. The great Civil war deprived Nebraska of one its ablest and most promising citizens when John McConihe gave his valuable life to his country.

Albert Towle

One of the most influential members of the Nebraska Association was Albert Towle, "Pap" Towle as he was familiarly called by nearly every one of his acquaintance. Like Judge Kinney, Mr. Towle was a man of mature years and large experience in the affairs of life at the time the Nebraska Association was organized on board the "Hannibal," in April, 1857. As far as the records show, he was the only member of the organization who claimed to possess any personal knowledge of Nebraska territory or any portion of it.

Albert Towle

Mr. Towle was born in 1817, and most of his early life was spent in the state of Illinois. He had acquired a good usable education and throughout the early history of Beatrice and Gage county he was the most all-around servicable member of the entire community. No man devoted his life more exclusively to the interests of the public and the upbuilding of the embryo city of Beatrice than Albert Towle. By nature he was highly optimistic, and there were times when but for him the venture would have entirely failed. He possessed a singular power of infusing into others his own enthusiasm and hopeful courage. His age and experience in the affairs of life gave him great influence over the young

men with whom he was associated in founding and building up our city. He was present and answered to his name when the roll of members was called in the office of the territorial secretary of state May 20th and responded to his name when the roll was again called, on the Beatrice townsite, July 27, 1857. From that time till the day of his death he was rarely outside Gage county.

Mr. Towle assisted in erecting the company house and on the arrival of his family, in the late summer or fall of 1857, this log cabin was donated to him. For many years he occupied it as a home. It became widely and familiarly known as "Pap's Cabin," and for a decade besides serving as a wayside inn it was the postoffice, while its main room became a place for holding public meetings of almost every character. It was here that Mr. Towle's youngest child, Katie, was born. She was the first child born of white parents in the county and, growing to lovely womanhood in her native city, she became the wife of George M. Ayres, of Deadwood, South Dakota, who had spent most of his life in Beatrice. She died at Deadwood on the 28th day of March, 1890, at the age of 32 years. Her remains rest by the side of those of her parents in the Beatrice cemetery, near the city of her birth.

KATIE TOWLE
First white child born in Gage county

Mr. Towle was the second postmaster of Beatrice, having been appointed to that position May 22, 1860, succeeding Herman M. Reynolds who was commissioned first postmaster, in 1857. By successive appointments he held the office till his death. In addition to the office of postmaster Mr. Towle was frequently honored by election to various county offices. On the organization of the county, in August, 1857, he, with George Bonham, was elected county commissioner of the county, and he retained the office three years, — until all questions respecting the organization of the county and the location of the county seat had been settled. He was county judge from 1861 to 1867; county treasurer in 1858-59-60 and again in 1864-65-66-67-68-69. He was for many years a notary public and a justice of the peace. The second instrument recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county is his bond in the sum of two hundred dollars as a notary public, with John McConihe as his surety. It is dated October 9, 1857, and was filed for record June 3, 1858.

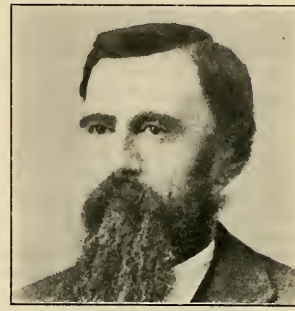
Mr. Towle early in life married Catherine Holt, a woman of ability and great force of character. She strongly supported her husband's ambitions and efforts as respected the upbuilding of Beatrice, and her practical good sense rendered her an exceedingly useful member of the community. She survived her husband ten years and rests at his side in the family burial lot in Beatrice cemetery. To this union there was born Helen, who became the wife of Jefferson B. Weston and who recently passed away at her home in Beatrice; Emer, who, about 1868, became the wife of Joseph Saunders, the first mail carrier from the Missouri river to Beatrice and one of the early and successful merchants of our city (Mr. Saunders died recently, at his home in Reynolds, Jefferson county and lies with his wife in his burial lot in Beatrice cemetery); Adelia, who became the wife of Richard C. Davis and who died in Chicago, in 1916; Mary, who became the wife of Dr. John G. Davis

and who now lives in Chicago; and Katie, of whom mention has just been made.

The family of Albert Towle was one of the best known and most highly esteemed of the pioneer families of our county. The head of the family more than any other man is entitled to be known to posterity as the "Father of Beatrice." This beautiful city is in a large sense his enduring monument. He died on the 8th day of March, 1879, at his home, the story and a half brick cottage erected by him in 1869, at the corner of Fourth and Ella streets this city.

Joseph Rutherford Nelson

Nelson was but little past twenty-one years of age in 1857, when he became a member of the Nebraska Association, and was probably the youngest man in the organization. He responded to his name when the roll of membership was called in Omaha May 20th, and again on the townsite of Beatrice, July 27, 1857, but he does not appear to have ever been active in the affairs of the association or to have accepted his distributive share of the townsite of Beatrice. It is not known to this writer how long he remained here nor where he went after leaving Beatrice in August, 1857, but in 1860 he is known to have made a trip across the plains to the Colorado gold fields. From there he went to Minnesota, thence to Wisconsin, and finally to Chicago, Illinois, where we find him in 1862. He attended a commercial college for a while in Chicago, and then found employment with the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Company until 1867, when he returned to Beatrice. In 1868, in co-operation with Nathaniel Howard, he established at Beatrice the first newspaper in Gage county, known as the *Blue Valley Record*. The history of the venture will be found further in this volume, in the chapter devoted to the newspapers and newspaper men of Gage county. On the 8th day of September, 1869, he married, at Wayne, Wisconsin, Miss Mary Eastman. Five children were born to this union, of whom only one is living, a son, Amos A. Nelson. In 1881 Mr. Nelson engaged in the general mercantile business in DeWitt, Saline county, Nebraska, where he resided until 1884, when he removed to Texas. During the great Galveston flood he lost nearly all his property and in 1901 he again returned to Beatrice. About 1910 he removed to the state of Washington, where he has ever since resided, and he is reported to be a helpless invalid, at the age of eighty-two years. As far as known, he is the last survivor of the old Nebraska Association.



Joseph Rutherford Nelson

Obediah Brown Hewett

Judge Hewett was admitted to membership in the Nebraska Association April 29, 1857, at the first meeting of the board of directors on board the "Hannibal," and was thereafter for several years an active and an efficient member of the organization. He was the only one of the seven lawyers who were members of the company who engaged in the practice of his profession in Beatrice, in those far off, early years. He was the first county judge of Gage county and his name frequently occurs in the minutes of the county commissioners' court as having performed some service for the county.

He was born at Hope, Maine, September 18, 1828, and was educated through his own efforts. He entered Bowdoin College and

graduated with the class of 1855. He then went to Chicago, Illinois, where he was employed for two years as a teacher. While so employed he read law and he was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1857, by the supreme court of Illinois. Almost immediately thereafter he set out for St. Louis, where we find him a passenger on board the "Hannibal" in April of that year. After the founding of Beatrice he went, in 1858, to Brownville, Nebraska, where he engaged in the practice of his profession for a short time. He spent a few months of 1859 prospecting for gold in Colorado. In October, 1862, he joined the Second Nebraska Cavalry, as a private in Company F; he was later elected captain of Company M, which he commanded until it was mustered out, in December, 1863. He was secretary of the last territorial council, in 1867, and secretary of the senate in the second state legislature. During the years 1868 and 1869, he was the county superintendent of schools for Nemaha county and he was the third mayor of Brownville. Beginning with 1868, he served the people as district attorney for four years, at a time when the district embraced nearly the whole of Nebraska south of the Platte river.

Judge Hewett was always interested in the work of education and during the greater part of his life he was active in the support and encouragement of every educational agency. He was president of the first meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' Association and a member of the first board of education of the State Normal School at Peru, Nebraska, continuing several years in its service. Judge Hewett was an ardent Presbyterian and in his later years he was especially active in the establishment of Hastings College, of which institution his son was the first graduate. He continued in the practice of the law at Brownville until 1876, when he removed to a farm near Auburn, Nebraska, from which, in 1880, he went to Hastings. There he was engaged in the practice of the law until 1893, when he removed to Riverside, California, where he again engaged in the practice of law, afterward locating on a fruit ranch in Chino, where he died, November 10, 1898.

At Brownville, Nebraska, Judge Hewett was married in October, 1857, to Miss Mary W. Turner, who was the first milliner of that western village. She died at Hastings, Nebraska, March 22, 1891. Three children of this marriage are living, James H. H. Hewett, chief clerk of the United States land office at Alliance, Nebraska; Mrs. Katherine L. Davis, of Long Beach, California; and C. William Hewett, of Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Hewett was again married, at Riverside, California, in 1893, to Mrs. Mary Nance, who survived him but a short time.

Personally Obediah Brown Hewett was a man of unusually large stature; he was deliberate of speech, a good, clear thinker, and a man whose whole life was dominated by absolute integrity of purpose.

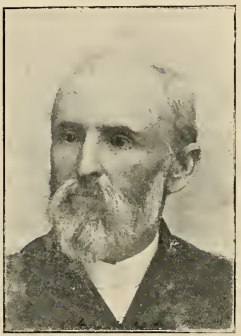
Gilbert T. Loomis

Gilbert T. Loomis was one of the younger members of the Nebraska Association. He was a large, good-looking, pleasant gentleman, with brown eyes and brown curling hair and beard. He settled upon the northeast quarter of section twenty-six, Midland township, now owned by Markus and Jens Jepson. It was at this point, almost due east of the quarter section line running east and west through this tract, that the old Brownville, Beatrice, Fort Kearney road forded Bear creek for many, many years. He lead the uneventful life of a farmer and was never very active in the affairs of the Nebraska Association, though he maintained his membership to the end in that historic organization, and on March 3, 1859, he went so far as to trade a yoke of oxen for the distributive share of Richard Northrop in the Beatrice townsite. The assignment describes Northrop as a resident of Tabor, Fremont county, Iowa. It bears the above date, is recorded in Book A, page 1, of the deed records of Gage county and is the first instrument of any description to be made a matter of record in the office of the register of deeds. Mr. Loomis, in 1861 or 1862, in connection with Volney S. Whitemore, bought a new threshing

outfit, and for a year or two these gentlemen did all the threshing by machinery in the county. It was an old-fashioned, horse-power affair and was the first threshing machine brought to Gage county. Loomis kept with his teams and machine a large, vicious dog and there was always more or less trouble between him and the hands about the machine over this faithful but dangerous canine. He sold his farm many years ago and with his family removed to Washington, in which state both he and his wife recently passed away. Mrs. Loomis was a kindly, gentle woman, the sister of Thomas W. Brown, who in 1866-1867 was sheriff of Gage county and who now lives in Tumwater, Washington. Both Mr. and Mrs. Loomis left none but pleasant memories behind them in Gage county.

Oliver Townsend

The reader may have noticed the name of Justus Townsend amongst those who originally subscribed to the articles of association of the Nebraska Townsite Company. Justus Townsend was a young physician, who with his sister, Miss Jennie Townsend, was also a passenger on board the "Hannibal" from St. Louis bound to the new territory of Nebraska. He took an active interest in the affairs of the association from the time of its organization until the founding of Beatrice, in July, 1857, and his name is frequently mentioned in the minutes of the association's meetings. Later, returning to New York, he transferred, by assignment, his interest in the townsite to his brother Oliver, who joined the organization in October, 1857, and who never, as long as he lived, claimed a home anywhere but at Beatrice, where he became one of the most active and useful citizens of our county. The lure of the west must have been very great to have held a refined, scholarly gentleman like Oliver Townsend in the forlorn hamlet of Beatrice during its earliest years. When Townsend first saw it, it consisted of a single two-room log house, "Pap's Cabin," and a wheezy old steam saw mill, perched on the bank of the Big Blue river. All the brilliant company who, in July, had assisted in founding the future city, except Albert Towle, J. B. Weston, Bennett Pike, Gilbert T. Loomis, and M. W. Ross, had returned to Missouri river points or elsewhere to spend the winter and to earn a little money. The privations of that winter were very, very great, and these few pioneers who had been left to guard this new outpost of western civilization frequently arose in the morning with gnawing appetites and at night retired hungry to bed. But with more accurate knowledge of the food resources afforded by the prairies, the woods, and the



Oliver Townsend

streams, all fear of hunger was ultimately dispelled, and returning spring brought increase of numbers and reviving hope.

Several of the colony availed themselves of the benefits of existing land laws and located claims about the embryo city, the cultivation of which soon yielded abundance. Mr. Townsend himself established a claim upon the tract of land which now comprises Glenover Addition to Beatrice. This he fenced and farmed in part for four years before disposing of it. With the development of the city and the settlement of the county, honors, such as they were, came to Mr. Townsend. He was four times elected county clerk of Gage county, and served in that office from 1862 to 1870. He was a member of the first state legislature,

having been elected to that office in 1867. He served acceptably for two years and as a legislator he participated in the stirring events which accompanied the effort to remove the capital of the state from Omaha to Lincoln. As county clerk he was ex officio one of the earliest superintendents of the common schools of Gage county, serving in that office from 1862 to 1868. When the first one-room frame school house was erected in Beatrice, in 1862, Mr. Townsend was hired to teach the first fall and winter school in that building. He was, in fact, for many years active in the civic, social, political, and scholastic life of this city, county, and state.

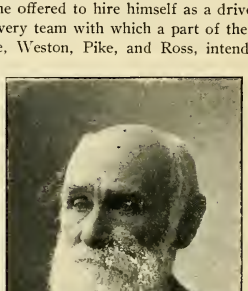
Mr. Townsend was widely known as a pioneer merchant, and for several years was a member of the firm of Blakely, Reynolds & Townsend, which erected the old part of the stone building now owned by Kilpatrick Brothers at the corner of Fifth and Court streets, north of the Burwood Hotel, and which conducted a general merchandise business therein for a number of years. After the dissolution of this firm by the death of Dr. Reynolds, in 1875, Mr. Townsend engaged in business on his own account, maintaining for a number of years a men's clothing and furnishings store on the north side of Court street, just east of Fifth street.

In 1880 he was married, at Nebraska City, to Miss Kate Monce, and with her he spent the latter part of his life on a small farm east of the city, on the road to the State Institution. To this union six children were born, three sons and a like number of daughters. The sons died in infancy, and the daughters are Jean, Ruth and Catherine. He died in April, 1914, in the eightieth year of his age. His devoted wife survives him, and, with her younger daughters, Ruth and Catherine, occupies the homestead, the object of the affection and tender regard of all who know her.

Oliver Townsend by disposition was open, friendly, and genial. He was a man of great personal worth, thoroughly honest and reliable in all the relations of life. He was from the very first the recipient of universal confidence and esteem from the early settlers of this portion of our state, and he retained the affectionate regard of the entire community to the last moment of his life.

Harrison F. Cook

Mr. Cook became associated with the Beatrice Townsite Company immediately on the arrival of the steamboat "Hannibal" at Nebraska City, April 29, 1857, where he was awaiting events. Learning of the locating committee and its intended search for a townsite, he offered to hire himself as a driver for the livery team with which a part of the committee, Weston, Pike, and Ross, intended to



Harrison F. Cook

explore southeastern Nebraska. Mr. Cook accompanied these members of the committee on their long drive across green stretches of unbroken prairie, until they finally reached the townsite of Beatrice. Early in June he came to Beatrice and was admitted into membership in the association. He returned to Nebraska City in the latter part of July and remained there until the spring of 1858. He was again in Beatrice during that year and possibly as late as the spring of 1859. He then left for Connecticut and did not return to Gage county again until about the year 1867, having been absent eight years. He engaged in farming for a while on his land, a mile and a half

north of the city, on Indian creek, which is still owned by a member of his family, but later he established himself in the furniture business in Beatrice.

Mr. Cook carried on this business until his death, which occurred at Beatrice, on the 17th day of January, 1908. He had witnessed the transformation of the bare, naked townsite of Beatrice into the beautiful city which it has grown to be. Not only had he witnessed but he had also been part and parcel of the growth and development for more than half a century of what was a prairie waste in 1857. No one can remember the time when he was not an enthusiast over the prospects of the city of his affections. He died universally respected by the community.

Harrison F. Cook was born at Norridgewock, Somerset county, Maine, November 4, 1830. He was married, at Stafford Hollow, Tolland county, Connecticut, March 15, 1860, to Lucinda H. Harvey, a native of that place. This pioneer husband and wife lie side by side in the old Beatrice cemetery.

Although abrupt in manner and very terse in statement, quick to take offense and slow to forget an injury, real or fancied, Harrison F. Cook was a wholesome, genuine, true man, and will live in the memory of his fellow citizens who knew and deeply loved him.

Dr. Bayard T. Wise

Dr. Wise was a young physician who found himself on board the "Hannibal" in April, 1857, bound for the territory of Nebraska. He was active in the organization of the Nebraska Association, served as its first treasurer, was a member of the locating committee, was present at the call of the roll of the members in Omaha, May 20th, in the office of the territorial secretary of state, repaired with the others to the Beatrice townsite in June, 1857, took an active part in the Fourth of July celebration, and answered to his name when the roll was called on the Beatrice townsite July 27, 1857. He remained here, however, only a few days after that time, but appears to have visited Beatrice again in 1858, while located in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, in the practice of his profession. From there he removed to Fort Madison, Iowa, where he remained until the breaking out of the great Civil war, in which he served as surgeon of the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. After the close of the war, he returned to Fort Madison, and resumed his practice for a short period of time. But Dr. Wise found more congenial and perhaps more profitable employment as the state agent for the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of Brooklyn, New York. For twenty-seven years he served this company as its field man in the great state of Illinois, with headquarters at Springfield. He died in the Deaconess Hospital at Indianapolis, May 16, 1908, of hardening of the liver, at the age of seventy-three years. His remains lie by those of his wife, in the beautiful Elmwood cemetery in the city of Fort Madison, Iowa.

Dr. Wise was survived by three sons, namely, Edward P. Wise, state agent of the Agricultural Insurance Company for the states of Kansas and Nebraska; Frederick T. Wise, state agent for Illinois for the Home Insurance Company of New York; and Gus M. Wise, state agent and field man for the Agricultural Insurance for the state of Indiana.

Dr. Wise was known to be a kindly, good man and a very useful man.

Joseph Milligan

Joseph Milligan joined the Nebraska Association after its organization, his name appearing among those who answered the roll call on the Beatrice townsite July 27, 1857. He did not maintain close relations with the association and appears to have gone, in the late summer of 1857, to some Missouri river point, where he remained until about the year 1860. He then returned to Gage county, settled on a claim on East Mud creek, and resided in that vicinity, with his wife Sallie, until 1863, when he, with William E. Mudge, established Buffalo Ranch, on the old Oregon Trail, at the western terminus of the stretch of roadway know as Nine Mile Ridge, on the Little Blue river, where the village of Deweese is now located. At this time the travel on the old trail had attained its maxi-

mum and the partners flourished amazingly. But on the afternoon of the 7th day of August, 1864, a stage driver halted his panting horses in front of the ranch and shouted a warning that the Indians were murdering the ranchmen further down the road, burning the ranches and destroying property, and advising them to fly at once for their lives. Hastily attaching a team to a wagon and placing therein a few provisions and clothing, they loaded their families in the wagon and drove rapidly to Pawnee Ranch, eight miles up the road, passing the body of Patrick Burke, the first blacksmith of Beatrice, who had been killed by the Indians two hours before. They remained at Pawnee Ranch, which was then leased and managed by Charles N. Emery, throughout a determined attack made upon it by the Indians the same day, a few hours after their escape. Later they returned to Gage county, by way of the Nebraska City branch of the Oregon Trail, bringing with them Patrick Burke's team, which they turned over to his widow, Mary E. Burke. In 1865 the Indian war having been quelled, they returned to Buffalo Ranch, but the building of the Union Pacific Railway in 1866, across Nebraska from east to west, put an end to the freighting and ranching business along the old trail and the partnership was dissolved. William E. Mudge returned to Gage county, and in 1866 he took a homestead in Elm township, where he lived for many years, his death having occurred in Beatrice, in 1917. Joseph Milligan and wife went to Texas to live, where they both died many years ago. They were fine-looking people and would have been valuable accessions to any community. They were Irish and were endowed with the ready wit and good humor which characterize that race. They were both much loved and highly respected by the old settlers of Gage county.

Bennett Pike

Perhaps no man was more active in the affairs of the Nebraska Association while identified with it than Bennett Pike. The minutes of the organization show that much of its early success was due to his clear, logical and vigorous intellect. He was a member of the important "Locating Committee," and with Jefferson B. Weston and M. W. Ross selected the townsite for Beatrice. He prepared the report of the committee and presented it at the meeting of the organization in Omaha, May 20, 1857, in which the advantages of the site selected by the committee were set forth in detail and with great clearness. While in Omaha the company selected him as the mill agent to transport to the proposed townsite the steam saw mill which had previously been purchased and which formed practically the only asset of the association.

Mr. Pike answered to his name when the roll was called on the Beatrice townsite July 27, 1857. He took a very active part in the preliminary work of founding Beatrice. With Weston, Reynolds, Towle, Townsend, and Loomis, he remained on the townsite until late in the fall of 1858, over fifteen months. In the meantime he preëmpted and purchased of the government the northeast quarter of Section 33, township 4, range 6 east, joining the townsite, north of Grant and west of Sixth street. On leaving the territory he seems to have gone to Rockport, Missouri, and during the year 1859 he engaged in the practice of law at that point, but later he removed to Saint Joseph.

Mr. Pike was the son of John and Elvira (Check) Pike. He was born in the town of Cornish, state of Maine, January 6, 1829, and died at Arcadia, Missouri, July 15, 1892. He was educated at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. He was colonel of the Fifty-eighth Regiment of Missouri State Militia during 1863 and 1864, at the same time representing his district in the house of representatives of the state legislature; he was also appointed brigadier general of militia. About the time the Civil war closed he was appointed federal district attorney for the Northern District of Missouri, and he served several years in that office. He was elected to congress from the Saint Joseph, Missouri, district in 1870, but was counted out; he was elected district judge for the Buchanan county district and afterward became the general attorney for the Iron Mountain Railroad Company, with headquarters at Saint Louis,

Missouri. Five days after his death the Saint Louis bar held a memorial meeting in which a preamble and resolutions in regard to Judge Pike were unanimously adopted.

BENNETT PIKE

Amongst other things are the following recitals respecting him:

Judge Bennett Pike died July 25, A. D. 1892. He ran his mortal course, and at the end bowed unmurmuringly to the arbiter of all human destines.

His was a race of varied experiences. Nature had endowed him with talents and a disposition that marked him as an important influence in his community. Personally and socially he was genial and full of sympathy, with a great heart full of love; he stooped to kiss the wounds of the sorrowing, and, with manly generosity, rejoiced with those who deservingly won life's laurels. He was a helper of his fellow kind. Distinctions came to him and he bore them with modesty, dignity and honor.

He was a member of the house of representatives of this state, and his efforts were (as in all his other walks) to the upbuilding

of the public welfare and happiness, upon a broad, strong and intelligent basis.

He served as federal district attorney in this state at a time when passion ran high and prosecution was prone to take the form of persecution, but with a heart incapable of embitterment, an impartial and scrupulous mind, he stood, at once, the protector of rights and the just defender of violated law.

As a judge upon the state circuit bench he challenged the deference and confidence of the lawyers and people, neither fawning to the leadership of the one nor cringing to the impulse of the other. He was just, discriminating, learned and courageous.

For many years he was with us as a practitioner at the bar. His integrity was impregnable, his demeanor calm, gentle and dignified. His humor in conversation sprang freely as from a fountain of good nature, and if weakness he had it was his admiration and veneration for his chosen and constantly pursued profession.

Jefferson Burns Weston

No other man connected with the Nebraska Association became as thoroughly identified with the history of the state of Nebraska as Jefferson Burns Weston. From the moment of arriving in the new territory of Nebraska to the end of his long career he was a loyal and useful citizen of our state. He was widely known and was universally honored and respected throughout our commonwealth.

Mr. Weston was born March 23, 1821, in the little town of Bremen, Lincoln county, Maine. He was the son of Eliphaz and Elizabeth Longfellow Weston, natives of the Pine Tree state and both highly respected members of old New England families who traced their ancestry back to Puritan days in this country. Mr. Weston obtained his elementary education in the common schools of Maine and, having prepared himself for a collegiate course of study, he, about 1852, entered Union College, now Union University, at Schenectady, New York, which under the presidency of Dr. Eliphalet Knott (1804-1866) had become one of the foremost educational institutions in the western world and drew bright, capable young men from every portion of the country. Mr. Weston graduated in the classical course from the college in 1856, and lending ear to the call of the great west, he came first to Chicago, and, still following the Star of Empire to the cry "Westward Ho," he went, in the spring of 1857, to St. Louis, where on a soft April morning, in 1857, he joined Judge John Fitch Kinney, John McConihe (a fellow alumnus of his alma mater), Albert Towle, Herman M. Reynolds, Bennett Pike, and the rest on board the "Hannibal" in her memorable voyage to the upper Missouri. He became a leader in that band of intrepid spirits who, on the 23d day of April, entered into a written compact to remain together and found a city somewhere in the new territory of Nebraska. From the moment of its organization Mr. Weston was most active in furthering this venture into what was, in fact, little more than a prairie waste. He was member of the locating committee, and with Bennett Pike, M. W. Ross, and Harrison F. Cook, reported to the organization at Omaha, May 20, 1857, their selection of the original townsite of Beatrice as the most eligible site for the prospective city. He never for a single moment wavered in his loyalty to this enterprise and throughout his life he was an efficient force in the upbuilding of Beatrice — child of his courage and brain. From May 29, 1857, when the first stake was driven on the townsite of Beatrice, with the exception of about nine years spent in Lincoln during and immediately following his six years' service as a state official, this city was his home. He retained his distributive share in the original townsite of Beatrice until it became valuable and he, more than any other of the Nebraska Association, profited from this venture.

Mr. Weston remained with Townsend, Towle, Pike, and Loomis, throughout the summer and fall of 1857 and the following winter, as a component part of the guard left behind to protect the interests of the Townsite Company. Some time in 1858, or possibly as late as 1859, he returned to Chicago and took a course in the study of the law. He was admitted to the bar and on his return to Beatrice he engaged for a brief time in the

practice of his profession. But he soon turned to a more adventurous, a more profitable and (to him at that period of life) a more congenial field of activity. About 1860 he engaged in the business of freighting across the plains along the old Military Highway from Beatrice to Denver and other western points. Later he engaged in mining and other enterprises about the gold fields of Colorado, but, returning to Beatrice in 1868, he resumed the practice of the law. His professional card appears in Volume I, No. 8 of the *Blue Valley Record*, the first newspaper published in Gage county. It reads as follows:

J. B. Weston.
Notary Public and Conveyancing.
Real Estate Agency and Law Office.
Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

He continued in the practice of law at Beatrice till 1873, when, having been elected auditor of public accounts for the state of Nebraska, he removed his family to Lincoln. He served the people as their auditor from January 1, 1873 to January 1, 1879,— six years.

On the 18th day of November, 1883, Mr. Weston, having with Daniel W. Cook and others purchased the stock of the Gage County Bank, organized the Beatrice National Bank, of Beatrice, Nebraska. He was chosen the president of this institution by the first board of directors, a position which he held for over twenty years, and until his death. Of those who were associated with him at the time, namely, Daniel W. Cook, Hiram W. Parker, Cyrus Alden, Silas P. Wheeler, Nathan Blakely, and William Lamb, of Beatrice, and Nathan S. Harwood, of Lincoln, all have passed away, Mr. Cook, the last survivor, dying in March, 1916.

On the 30th of April, 1860, Mr. Weston married Miss Helen Towle, the eldest daughter of Albert Towle. To this union four children were born, namely Ralph A., Elizabeth L., Katherine, and Herbert T. Weston. Mr. Weston died September 15, 1905, in the seventieth year of his age, and in 1917 his wife followed him to the grave. Their remains rest in the beautiful Evergreen Home Cemetery, as do also those of their younger daughter, Katherine. To every loyal citizen of our county, and to every man who values worth of character, the turf that wraps their clay should be hallowed mold.

No sketch of the life of Mr. Weston would be complete which failed to take account of the remarkable influence which, without conscious effort on his part, he exercised over others. From first to last he was an important factor in the affairs of the territory and state. He was a just man, kind and sympathetic. He was remarkably deliberate and conservative in judgment, and was accustomed to take an accurate and comprehensive view of human affairs. His clear, inclusive way of looking at things made him one of the most useful citizens the state of Nebraska has ever possessed.

In his habits and association, Jefferson Burns Weston was the most democratic of men. His charity was large, his integrity above question. With a generous, open-hearted faith in humanity and a deep-rooted faith in Almighty God, he reached the end of his long journey in an atmosphere of hope, courage, and cheer that was infectious to all who came under his influence.

William H. Brodhead

Though not a member of the Beatrice Townsite Association, William H. Brodhead was so intimately connected with the enterprise as to deserve a place amongst the founders of our city. In 1857 he was the best known and perhaps the most competent surveyor and topographical engineer in the territory of Nebraska, and for this reason he was employed by the directors of the Beatrice Association to survey and make plats of the original town of Beatrice. During his entire life Mr. Brodhead took a keen interest in Beatrice, and to friends here he frequently expressed an appreciation of the fact that he had been instrumental in the founding of the city.

Mr. Brodhead was born near Milford, Pike county, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1832. He died at Hailey, Idaho, October 21, 1898. At Honesdale, Wayne county, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1867, he married Eliza Avery. Surviving

him are his widow and their son, W. A. Brodhead, who is a prominent lawyer of Mackay, Idaho, and the chairman of the Idaho state highway commission.

William H. Brodhead
Surveyor original townsite of Beatrice, 1857

William H. Brodhead, in addition to a very accurate and useful education in civil engineering, was a lawyer of ability, having been admitted to the bar of Pennsylvania November 21, 1856. The same year he came to the territory of Nebraska, where he practised both of his professions, having been admitted to practice before the courts of the territory June 4, 1857. In 1859 he was elected a member of the house of representatives of the territory, from Otoe county, and he served during that session. His friend, the distinguished Nebraskan, J. Sterling Morton, also was a member of that legislature. In 1861 Mr. Brodhead went to Utah territory to live; there he served for a while as the federal district at-

torney. Although a non-Mormon in belief and practice, he was a warm personal friend of Brigham Young and was frequently the recipient of the Prophet's favor. In 1863 he located at Carson City, Nevada, where he practiced law for a few years, but, being drawn into the maelstrom of the mining excitement then rife in Carson City, he dropped the law and sought wealth as a miner. He followed this business until the fall of 1879, when he moved to Hailey, Idaho. In 1894 he was appointed register of the United States land office at Hailey, and he died just after he had completed his four years' term of office.

Mr. Brodhead was six feet four inches in height and was proportionately a large man.

As a surveyor, Mr. Brodhead was required to make three plats of the original town of Beatrice, one of which was filed in the local land office at Brownville on the 12th day of August, 1859, and one was forwarded to the General Land Office at Washington to be kept as a part of its files. The third was, of course, delivered to Herman M. Reynolds, as mayor of the city. Some dissatisfaction existed for a while over Brodhead's survey, and about the year 1875 Anselmo B. Smith was employed to resurvey the original town of Beatrice. These surveys differ slightly; the Smith survey showing a deviation from the true lines of less than three feet in some parts of the city. When we take into account the crudeness of the time and the probable haste with which the original survey was made by Mr. Brodhead, it is evident, assuming that the error did exist, that his work was well done. A careless chain carrier might easily account for this error.

Dr. Herman Myer Reynolds

It would be difficult for any one to speak the whole truth about Dr. Herman Myer Reynolds without appearing to be his panegyrist. But seven days past the age of twenty-five years when he joined with Kinney, McConihe, Towle, Weston, Wise, Pike, and the others to form the Nebraska Association, on board the old steamboat "Hannibal," he was already a man of affairs and for some time had been a successful practicing physician. He was a native of Sullivan county, New York, and was a son of Andrew and Catherine Reynolds, both natives of the state of New York. The father was of English lineage, and the mother was the daughter of Garrett Van Benscoten, a Hollander and a soldier of the Revolution. Dr. Reynolds obtained his elementary education in the common schools of his native state, and in his youth entered an academy at Liberty, New York. He afterward pursued a course of study in the State Normal School at Albany, with the view of fitting himself for a teacher, and he did for a while engage in that occupation. When still a very young man he began the study of medicine, at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. His final course was taken in the great medical college at Albany, from which institution he graduated May 31, 1853, and he at once entered upon the practice of his profession at Barryville, in his native state. Afterward he removed to Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he remained two years, engaged in the practice of his profession. Dr. Reynolds was not the man to yield to the wanderlust, as his subsequent history clearly shows, but the call of the great west was in the air. The romance, the spirit of adventure and its excitement, proved to him as to many other young men, irresistible, and him too we find, on a soft April morning, in 1857, aboard the old steamer "Hannibal," headed for the new territory of Nebraska.

With characteristic modesty, his name first appeared in the records of the townsite company amongst those who signed the articles of association, following the names of Dr. Wilmans, Dr. Wise, and Albert Towle. It is next found when the membership roll was called by the scholarly secretary, John McConihe, in the office of the territorial secretary of state, in Omaha, May 20, 1857, and when the roll was again called on the townsite of Beatrice, July 27, 1857, Dr. Reynolds was one of the members who answered "Here." Prior to coming to Beatrice, it had been arranged that the members of the association should observe some sort of order in locating claims on the public domain with respect to

the townsite, so as to avoid rivalry and contests over the matter, and the first public service Dr. Reynolds was called upon to perform was to act as a member of a committee of three persons "to draft resolutions for a claim association," evidently to be given jurisdiction over this delicate subject. The importance attached by the members of the association to the subject of claims is evidenced by the fact that this committee was the first one appointed

HERMAN M. REYNOLDS

at Beatrice, July 27, 1857. At the adjourned session in the afternoon of that day, on the coming in of the report of this committee, Dr. Reynolds was chosen as secretary and treasurer for this claims association, and the next day Bennett Pike was selected as president, the other members being David P. Taylor and H. F. Cook. Their duties were plainly outlined by the proceeding of May 28, 1858, when it was resolved that "Each individual hold his own claim as at present staked out, regardless of the valuation of the same, but subject to the location of the town," and it was further "resolved that the claim club settle boundary lines of claims and that the same be referred to them," and it was at this meeting also "resolved that no one individual be allowed to hold more than one hundred and sixty acres within one mile of town."

After these meetings, the name of Dr. Reynolds frequently occurs in the association's record. At a meeting of the association, held May 22, 1858, when sixty votes were cast for president of the Nebraska Association, he received fifty-seven, and was at the same time selected as a member of the board of directors. Under the federal townsite act, the government did not recognize individuals but required at least a semblance of a village or town organization, the mayor of such body alone having authority to enter land for townsite purposes. Dr. Reynolds was chosen as the first mayor of Beatrice,— at a time when there was neither councilmen, clerk, treasurer, city attorney nor any semblance of civic organization,— in order that the law might be complied with and the land comprising the original townsite of Beatrice be purchased, pursuant to the above mentioned act of congress. An assessment was levied upon the members of the association and a thousand dollars was in some way gotten together to pay for the survey and the government price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for the land and other necessary expeditures connected with the survey and entry of the townsite. On the 12th day of August 1859, Dr. Reynolds, as the mayor of Beatrice, entered at the government land office at Brownville the half-section of land comprising the original townsite. Most of the mayor's deeds for lots in the original townsite were executed by him.

Dr. Reynolds was also very active in the early affairs of Gage county. With Mr. Towle he served from January, 1858, to January 1, 1860, as a member of the first board of county commissioners, and after the county was divided into three commissioner districts he served on the board till May, 1860, when he resigned, so that J. M. Summers of Blue Springs could be appointed to represent that part of the county on the board. He was county treas-

urer in 1858 and 1859 and again in 1863; he was county judge in 1868-1869; clerk of the district court in 1866-1867; county superintendent of school in 1868-1869. He was a member of the state constitutional convention in 1866, from Gage county, and represented our county in the legislature of 1874 .

Dr. Reynolds was the first resident physician of Gage county and one of the first in the state of Nebraska. In 1857 there was of course but little call for men of his profession. But, undeterred by the discouraging outlook, he took up his work as a physician amongst the settlers, and for several years he devoted his time, when called upon, simply to doing good, such compensation as he was willing to accept being usually in some sort of farm produce — butter, eggs, poultry and the like. In the first issue of the *Blue Valley Record*, of August 1, 1868, is found this card:

H. M. Reynolds, M.D.
Office Blakely, Reynolds & Co's. Store
Beatrice, Neb.

Until the last moment of his life Dr. Reynolds treasured above his earthly possessions his ability to relieve the sick, minister to the afflicted, console the dying. Until prostrated by disease, he was never known to fail, even in his busiest years, the demands upon his professional skill and knowledge. Through cold and heat, across desolate prairies, this pioneer physician went about among the people ministering with all kindness to those who sought his aid.

The Doctor frequently engaged in business ventures outside of his profession. In 1864, he put up a considerable quantity of prairie hay, and in the fall and winter he bought a large number of cattle. Roughing the cattle through the winter, he herded them on the prairie until they became fit for market, then drove them to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they were sold. So many died during the winter that his profits, if any at all, were small. A number of times he engaged in mercantile business of some kind. As early as 1859 he had a small grocery and provision store, about where the old First National Bank began business in 1872. His goods were kept in a small, round-log cabin, with the side next to Court street. Finally he and Oliver Townsend opened a general store here, later the firm became Blakely, Reynolds & Company, and still later Dr. Reynolds and Oliver Townsend erected the old part of the stone building now owned by the Kilpatrick Brothers at the corner of Fifth and Court streets, where the firm continued in business until he died, in 1875. Mr. Blakely, however, was appointed receiver of the government land office at Beatrice, August 10, 1869, and retired from the firm, being succeeded later by I. N. McConnell. This business made money for the various partners and was really the foundation of their fortunes.

Dr. Reynolds was of medium height and probably never weighed in excess of one hundred and forty pounds. When he was a young man his hair was thick, black, and curled; his complexion was dark; his eyes gray, large, and very expressive; his nose Grecian, features regular, forehead broad and high, countenance frank and open. He was a most kindly, sympathetic man and wonderfully considerate of the feelings and wishes of others.

On October 20, 1861, Dr. Reynolds married Naomi Barcus, who at this writing survives him, and with her daughters, Josephine and Ruth, the wife of Corey C. Farlow, occupies the two-story, brick dwelling house, at the corner of Market and Eighth streets, which was erected by the Doctor as a home a few years prior to his death. His widowed daughter is Mrs. Elsie Loeber, of Beatrice, and his other children are Mrs. Mollie Randall, the wife of George Randall, of Morrill county, Nebraska, and Mrs. Hermina Sackett, the wife of Hon. Harry E. Sackett, of Beatrice.

To the last moment of conscious existence Dr. Reynolds was a most loyal citizen of the city which he was so instrumental in founding. He rarely left Gage county and his interest in its welfare was such as always to hasten his return. He died at Beatrice on the 26th day of April, 1875, after a lingering illness, and when but a few days past the forty-third year

of his age. His remains lie in the Beatrice cemetery, near the city whose history is inseparably linked with his name. He was deeply loved and universally mourned. On the day of his burial, the business houses of the city closed out of respect for him. Some one has said "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." If this is a true saying, then Dr. Reynolds is immortal, for he can never be forgotten while the city of Beatrice lasts. As in the case of Albert Towle, Oliver Townsend, and Jefferson Burns Weston, the beautiful city of Beatrice stands as an enduring monument to the memory of Dr. Herman Myer Reynolds.

CHAPTER XVII

A ROLL OF HONOR

Gage County Territorial Pioneers — Biographical Sketches: Nathan Blakely, Charles N. Emery, Joseph Hollingworth, Hiram W. Parker, Charles G. Dorsey, Fordyce Roper, Albert L. Tinkham, Horace M. Wickham, Isma P. and Elizabeth Mumford, James B. Mattingley, Samuel Jones, Algernon Sidney Paddock.

Most of the men and women of our county whose heroism made it possible for the lines of civilization to be advanced upon these western prairies, have long since passed away. Many are now unrepresented here by posterity or near relatives. As far as possible, it is the design of the author of this history to rescue from oblivion in this chapter of his work the names of the territorial pioneers of Gage county. In a few instances names will be found here of those who were in the territory many years before they became residents of Gage county. Appended to the list of names will be found brief biographical sketches of some of these heroic dead, who, by public service, position in the county, or from worth of character, are entitled to a place in any history of the county. It is a regrettable fact that no accurate catalogue of the names of these pioneers is now in existence. The most reliable evidence is afforded perhaps by the records of the United States land office. As far as possible the writer has supplemented these records from the minutes of the meetings of the Old Settlers' Association of Gage county, the early district-court records, the minutes of the county commissioners, and the recollection of a few pioneers still amongst us.

Nebraska was admited to the great sisterhood of states March 1, 1867. Though pioneer conditions still prevailed in many portions of the state, it may reasonably be said that with railroads built and rapidly building throughout Nebraska, fairly accessible markets for the bulk of the population, steadily rising land values, rapidly accumulating wealth, a growing independence on the part of the entire population and the political freedom which under our system of government statehood always confers, the pioneer days were at an end when Nebraska ceased to be a territory. In compiling the following list of names, where the date on which the residence of the pioneer began in our county is known it is given; where unknown, the date on which the pioneer is shown to have entered public land in the old Brownville-Beatrice land office is given as the year to which residence of the party is credited. Names appear in this roll regardless of the fact that they are found elsewhere in this history. It is hoped that as time advances, the years may render more and more apparent the value of this

Roll of Honor

BEATRICE

Alexander, T. J., 1859
Alexander, William, 1859
Ashby, William H., 1865
Ayers, James L., 1860
Ayers, Patience M.
Blakely, Nathan, July 17, 1857
Blakely, Margaret Constance (Tinkham)
Blakely, William, 1857
Burke, Patrick, 1858

Burke, Mary E., 1858
Brown, Thomas W., 1860
Brown, J. L., 1860
Brown, Sidney, 1860
Bonham, G. W., 1857
Coulter, Theodore M., 1859
Cartwright, Edward, 1860
Cook, Harrison F., 1857
Chandler, Luther B., 1865
Chase, J. E., 1860
Cox, M. D., 1867
Davis, Richard C., 1860
Dorsey, C. G., 1856 (Brownville)
Dunbar, John J., 1866
Emery, Charles, 1860
Emery, Mary E., 1860
Emery, Carl, 1860
Favor, Filetus M., 1859
Gilbert, John, 1858
Griggs, L. T., 1865
Griggs, N. K. 1867
Hewett, Obediah B., 1857
Hulburt, George W., 1864
Hamma, Peter, 1865
Harrington, Silas B., 1857
La Selle, Henry A., 1866
Loomis, Gilbert T., 1857
LePoidevin, Nicholas, 1865
LePoidevin, Thomas, 1866
Latham, John W., 1864
Latham, Diana, 1864
Latham, Asa, 1864
Mumford, Isma P., 1857
Mumford, Elizabeth, 1857
Mack, Eugene, 1866
Maxfield, James B., 1860
Nelson, Joseph, R., 1857
Parker, Hiram W., 1857
Pike, Bennett, 1857
Paddock, Algernon Sidney, 1857
Pethoud, Andrew J., 1857
Reed, Israel
Roper, Fordyce, 1857
Roper, Frederick E., 1857
Sage, A. D., 1863
Stevens, Orrin, 1857
Stevens, Amasa, 1864
Sibier, Frederick, 1866
Shaw, Jacob, 1866
Shaw, Julia, 1866
Shaw, John, 1866
Stoner, William Henry, 1860
Saunders, Joseph, 1855
Saunders, Emer, 1857
Steer, William H., 1866
Snow, A. L., 1866
Snow, Emilie, 1866
Towle, Albert, 1857
Towle, Catherine, 1857
Tinkham, Albert L., 1862
Tinkham, Sarah, 1862
Tobbey, G. H., 1857
Townsend, Oliver, 1857
Weston, Jefferson Burns, 1857
Weston, Helen (Towle), 1857

ELM TOWNSHIP

Mudge, William E., 1866
Stebbins, Austin E., 1866
Worden, William A., 1866

BLAKELY TOWNSHIP

Alexander, John W., 1863
Badley, John W., 1863
Ball, Lucy A., 1865
Bailey, Asa F., 1863
Benjamin, James H., 1861
Blakely, William, 1857
Blakely, Cornelia, 1863
Claybaugh, John H., 1866
Claybaugh, Reuben, 1866
Claybaugh, Rebecca, 1866
Claybaugh, Joseph, 1866
Clyne, Thomas, 1859
Clyne, Joseph, 1859
Clyne, Margaret, 1859
Dibble, Richard, 1865
Dolen, Benjamin, 1864
Freeman, Daniel, 1866
Graff, Joseph, 1863
Jakes, John, 1862
Kilpatrick, Samuel, 1859
Kilpatrick, Rachael, 1859
Kinzie, John, 1866
Myers, Mary, 1863
McCleve, William H., 1864
Odell, Hiram S., 1859
Rogers, Washington N., 1865

Rogers, Wilber S., 1865
Rossiter, Richard, 1862
Scheve, Henry, 1865
Scheve, John, 1866
Scribner, Irving S., 1866
Sopher, Elijah, 1866
Suiter, Agnes E., 1865
Wells, Joel, 1863
Wells, Christian, 1865
Wells, Leon, 1863
Wells, James, 1863
Wells, Darius, 1863
Wells, Cyrus, 1863
Wells, B. E., 1863
Wright, Amos L., 1866
Wickham, Horace, 1859

GRANT TOWNSHIP

Barrett, John, 1858
Buss, Charles, 1859
Carnahan, Thomas, 1866
Carnahan, George, 1866
Claibourne, 1865
Claibourne, 1865
Creed, George, 1865
Gaston, George W., 1866
Grant, George, 1858
Grant, John, 1858
Grant, James, 1865
Haddlock, Alva R., 1865
Harvey, David, 1865
Kinsey, James, 1861
Kinsey, William, 1861
Lull, H. M., 1865
Nicholas, Robert, 1860
Plucknett, William, 1861
Van Clief, William, 1863

CLATONIA TOWNSHIP

Albert, Henry, 1866
Kloepper, Henry, 1866
Pitzer, Frederick, 1866
Steinmeyer, William, 1866
Steinmeyer, Henry, 1866
Steinmeyer, Frederick, 1866

SICILY TOWNSHIP

Harvey, Oliver J., 1866
Harpster, Daniel J., 1862
Lott, James L., 1864
Stebbins, Austin E., 1861

RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP

Crites, George B., 1866
Holt, C. B., 1866
Parker, John C., 1864
Shelley, Francis, 1862

MIDLAND TOWNSHIP

Brick, Henry, 1866
Buchanan, Joe, 1865
Bull, Stephen, 1866
Barney, Joseph, 1866
Conley, Michael, 1866
Dixon, Ira, 1858
Jones, Samuel, 1857
Jones, William, 1859
Jones, Isaac, 1857
LePoidevin, Thomas, 1866
Loomis, Gilbert T., 1857
Martin, Joseph, 1860
Pierce, H. J., 1857
Pethoud, John, 1857
Pethoud, John, Jr., 1858
Pethoud, F. M., 1857
Pethoud, Thomas, 1858
Pethoud, James K. P., 1858
Sherrill, Thomas, 1860

HOLT TOWNSHIP

Austin, Edward C., 1857
Austin, Homer B., 1857
Barnhouse, John, 1866
Chesney, Warren, 1865

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

Michael, Weaver, 1866

BLUE SPRINGS

Armstrong, Thomas, 1860
Anthony, Levi, 1862
Chambers, Joseph
Desert, George
Elliott, Martin, 1857
Elliott, William, 1857
Elliott, Henry, 1857
Elliott, Stephen, 1857
Hager, Adam, 1859

Hager, Margaret, 1859
Hager, John, 1859
Fisher, King, 1862
Fisher, Fred, 1862
Gary, Patrick R., 1859
Graham, F. M., 1859
Johnson, James H., 1857
Johnson, Martha M., 1857
Johnson, Rankin, 1859
Knight, Lynus, 1860
Knight, Jane A., 1860
Lott, James, 1860
Max
Nichols, James H., 1864
Noyes, Reuyl, 1857
Poff, Jacob, 1857
Shaw, Samuel, 1859
Sargent, True, 1859
Sargent, Wright, 1859
Summers, J. M., 1859
Tyler, William B., 1859
Tyler, Rebecca (Woodward), 1859
Wilson, Robert A., 1861

ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP

Adams, John, 1865
Andrews, Miles, 1863
Barnum, H. S., 1859
Breese, Robert, 1860
Coffee, Philip B., 1865
Coffinberry, C. C., 1858
Davis, Carroll, 1859
Davis, William, 1859
Dixon, James, 1858
Dobbs, F. H., 1858
Dunn, John H., 1860
Elerbeck, James, 1866
Freeman, Humphrey P., 1863
Graves, H. J., 1860
Hendy, Eli B., 1859
Hollingworth, James, 1862
Hollingworth, Henry, 1862
Hollingworth, Joseph, 1862
Hollingworth, James, Jr., 1862
Hayden, Stephen, 1863
Hayden, Amos, 1863
Lily, Henry D., 1863
Mattingley, James B., 1857
Milligan, Joseph, 1857
Montgomery, John, 1860
Miller, David, 1863
Miller, Catherine, 1863
Mudge, Louis C., 1866
Mudge, Franklin, 1865
Nyghart, Stodgell, 1866
Potterton, John, 1859
Schullenberger, Jacob, 1859
Schullenberger, Henry, 1859
Schullenberger, William McK., 1859
Shaw, Harley, J., 1865
Slocumb, Charles H., 1866
Stark, George W., 1858
Tidler, John, 1859
Webber, Cyrene, 1865
Weigle, Gabriel, 1863
Welsh, Alex, 1864
Wild, William, 1862
Van Boskirk, Asher, 1863
Van Bockirk, William, 1866

LOGAN TOWNSHIP

Armstrong, William, 1865
Chrisman, David, 1863
Chrisman, Marion, 1863
Chrisman, Joseph, 1863
Graves, Abraham, 1860
Graves, Louis, 1860
Graves, Enoch, 1860
Graves, Henry, 1860
Hadley, Isaac N., 1862
Mumford, J. W., 1865
Mumford, J. B., 1865
Pheaster, Johnathan, 1865
Rogers, John, 1863
Smith, Duncan, 1866
Smith, Archibald, 1866
Tanner, John, 1865
Williams, Thomas, 1865
Williams, Evan, 1865
Zimmerman, Thomas, 1862
Zimmerman, Class, 1862

NEMAHA TOWNSHIP

Sykes, George, 1865

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Cain, Nathaniel D., 1865
Dunn, William B., 1865

Dunn, John C., 1865
Evans, Stephen, 1866
Fisher, Sylvester, 1859
Goin, James K., 1856
Jimmerson, Allen, 1866
Jimmerson, John J., 1866
Muchmore, L. M., 1856
Muchmore, James, 1866
MacMains, A .P., 1858
Palmer, David, 1855
Palmer, John, 1866
Sharp, Johnathan, 1865
Sharp, Louis, 1865
Sharp, George, 1865
Wymore, Cornelius S., 1866

ISLAND GROVE

Bolinger, Peter, 1866
Buckles, Peter, 1864
Brown, Joel, 1866
Dewey, Timothy, 1859
Dewey, William F., 1859
Fishbaugh, John, 1864
Garaer, James I., 1866
Irby, James, 1864
Mangus, David, 1866
Marion, Tipton, 1864
Stuteman, Thomas, 1866
Tibbitts, Samuel A., 1864
Tibbitts, Thomas D., 1864
Tibbitts, Edward, 1864
Willis, Scott, 1864
Willis, Cornelius, 1864
Wymore, Cornelius, 1864
Wymore, James, 1864
Wymore, Frederick, 1863

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP

Anderson, Asa, 1865
Martin, Thomas, 1865
Smith, Abraham B., 1866
Wilkinson, George, 1866

FILLEY TOWNSHIP

Bendernagle, Andrew, 1866
Bendernagle, Philip, 1866
Blakely, Benjamin F., 1862
Dunn, James W., 1859
Franklin, George W., 1863
Kees, John F., 1866
Norton, Noah, 1866
Reese, Levi M., 1864
Scott, Wilson D., 1865

HOOKER TOWNSHIP

Fuller, George W., 1863
Fuller, John, 1863
Fuller, Mary A., 1863
Hillman, John, Sr., 1860
Hillman, John, Jr., 1860
Hillman, Thaddeus, 1860
Krause, William, 1865
Williams, Thaddeus, 1863

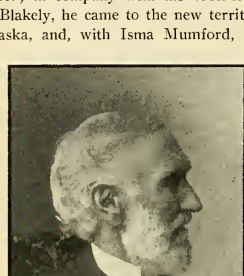
ADAMS TOWNSHIP

Adams, John O., 1857
Adams, Nelson, 1857
Barmore, Henry, 1865
Curtis, William, 1860
Drown, George W., 1863
Golden, Henry, 1857
Gale, Alfred, 1857
Gale, George, 1858
Hildebrand, Jacob P., 1858
Hildebrand, Leroy, 1857
Hickock, Charles, 1860
Mathews, William, 1856
Moore, B. F., 1859
Noxon, George, 1857
Lyons, John, 1857
Reynolds, H., 1857
Shaw, Stephen P., 1857
Shaw, William, 1857
Shaw, John, 1857
Shaw, James I., 1857
Shaw, Stephen V., 1857
Silvernail, James, 1857
Silvernail, William, 1857
Stafford, John, 1857
Shaw, Egbert, 1857
Whyman, Charles, 1866

Nathan Blakely

Nathan Blakely was born at Roxbury, Connecticut, July 26, 1824. He obtained a good, usable education in the public schools of his neighborhood and in Roxbury Academy. In 1844 he began to teach school in Westchester

county, New York, and he followed this uneventful but useful calling for a number of years, teaching thirteen terms in succession at Long Branch, the celebrated watering place in Monmouth county, New Jersey. He then returned to Connecticut and for a while engaged in newspaper work at Roxbury. In 1852 he went to Chicago, and finally he located in Iowa, where he again taught school. In 1857, in company with his brother, William Blakely, he came to the new territory of Nebraska, and, with Isma Mumford, almost



NATHAN BLAKELY

by accident, stumbled upon the Beatrice Townsite Company and found the members of this company engaged in building the log house which afterward became famous in the pioneer history of the county as "Pap's Cabin." He never identified himself directly with the townsite company, but a few days after his arrival he entered the tract of land where Zimmerman Spring is now located. He lived there from July, 1857, to the spring of 1865, and the walnut grove north of the spring was planted by him. He then sold his land to Nicholas LePoidevin and moved to Beatrice, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits and for a few years was the most active and prominent business man in the village.

In 1858 he was elected county clerk of Gage county and the first minutes of the board of county commissioners, or the county court as that board was then called, are written by Mr. Blakely's hand. In 1859 he was reëlected to the office of county clerk, and during his entire incumbency of that office he was ex officio county superintendent of public instruction, while for a brief period, in 1858-1859, he filled the office of county judge. In 1861 Mr. Blakely was elected the representative in the territorial assembly for the district composed of Gage, Johnson, Clay, and Jones (now Jefferson) counties, and in 1866 he was again elected, to what proved to be the last territorial legislature. Before the adjournment of the session, in June, 1867, Nebraska had become a state and it became necessary to elect two United States senators to represent her in congress. Mr. Blakely steadily supported for these offices Thomas W. Tipton of Brownville, and Algernon S. Paddock of Omaha. Tipton was elected, but instead of Paddock, General John M. Thayer was chosen. Mr. Blakely was elected to the first state legislature in the fall of 1868, from our county, and while still a member of that body he was appointed receiver of public moneys for the United States land office at Beatrice: he took charge of that office October 1, 1869. He served the government in this responsible position for six years, handling thousands of dollars of public money, and at the close of his service it was found that the government was slightly in his debt.

In November, 1868, Mr. Blakely married Margaret Constance Tinkham, the daughter of Albert L. and Sarah Tinkham, who were also among the earliest settlers of Gage county. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Blakely had been one of the active and successful school teachers of Gage county. Her first school was at Blue Springs, and her pupils were: Carter C. Coffinberry and Hugh J. Dobbs, from what is now Rockford township; John Shaw, from the Otoe Indian Agency; and from Blue Springs, Thomas, James, Richard, and Martha Johnson, Maria Knight (afterward Mrs. Louis Wehn), Retta Anthony (now Mrs. F. M. Graham), her brother Isaac, and two

younger sisters, children of Dr. Levi Anthony. These, with Sarah Fisher and her sister, daughters of King Fisher, constituted one of the earliest schools taught in the county.

Mr. Blakely's death occurred at his home in Beatrice on his birthday anniversary, July 26, 1906, and his wife passed away, at her home, December 6, 1908. At the time of his decease he had attained the age of eighty-two years, and Mrs. Blakely had reached the age

Margaret Constance Blakely

of sixty-five. Mr. Blakely was a shrewd business man and at the time of his death was one of the wealthy men of our county. His fortune was all in Beatrice real estate and farm lands in Gage, Thayer, Nuckolls, and other Nebraska counties. After his widow's death this fortune descended to their only son, Charles, who is now a resident of Omaha. This pioneer husband and wife lie side by side in their own burial plot in Beatrice cemetery, in, as yet, unmarked graves.

From the moment of its origin until the last moment of his life, Beatrice never possessed a more loyal, enthusiastic, hopeful friend than Nathan Blakely.

Charles N. Emery

Charles N. Emery was born in Industry, Franklin county, Maine, August 15, 1836. Early in 1856, with the great influx of free-soil immigration, he came to Kansas, and made his home at Lawrence, which, from 1854 to 1863, was the rallying point of the free-soilers and the headquarters of John Brown, Jim Lane, Redpath, Parsons, Eldridge, Pomeroy, and other anti-slavery leaders. His first occupation was to drive stage on the old Santa Fe Trail from Leavenworth to Topeka, Kansas, and in this capacity he made the acquaintance of nearly every prominent leader of the anti-slavery movement in the territory of Kansas.

In 1864 he came to Nebraska territory, where he was for a while in the employ of the Overland Stage Company and had charge of the station at Thirty-two Mile Creek. Later he came eastward on the Oregon Trail to Liberty Farm, and he had charge of that important station at the time of the great Sioux Indian raid on the Little Blue river in August, 1864. On the afternoon of that day a stage driver halted his team at Liberty Farm long enough to warn the inmates to fly for their lives. Mr. Emery and his family made their way quickly to Pawnee Ranch, a large station of the Overland Stage Company, so located as to be easily defended. They went through the siege from three or four hundred savages, and when the danger had subsided they made their way to Atchison, Kansas. From that point, for a year or two, Mr. Emery engaged in freighting across the plains to Colorado. In July, 1867, he came to Beatrice, and for a while he was engaged in farming and stock-raising, but on the completion of the old stone hotel building at the corner of Fifth and Court streets, he, on January 1, 1871, became its landlord. This famous old hostelry was known for years as the "Emery House," and is to this day in favor with the traveling public, under the name of the "Burwood." Beginning with 1878, Mr. Emery owned and ran a livery barn, which was located directly east of the hotel.

While driving stage over the old Santa Fe Trail, Charles N. Emery met Mary Benson, and on May 4, 1858, they were married, at Lawrence, Kansas. Here their two children

were born, George E. and John C. Emery. This pioneer family from the first was prominent in the social and business affairs of Beatrice. Charles and Mary Emery were genial, optimistic, friendly people and were much loved and highly respected by the entire community.

He reached the boundaries of life when venerable in years, and on the 6th day of January, 1907, the passing Death Angel with his wing touched his companion of over forty years, and she passed peacefully from the earth forever. After their long pilgrimage together, they lie side by side, in everlasting repose, near the beautiful city which they both loved and which loved them.

Joseph Hollingsworth

Joseph Hollingworth was born in the manufacturing town of Melbourne, Derbyshire, England, November 2, 1836. He was the youngest of twelve children born to his parents, James and Elizabeth Hollingworth. In 1848 these fine English parents, accompanied by their four youngest children, came from England to the United States of America and settled in the then new state of Wisconsin, where the father engaged in farming and in the manufacture of lumber from the pine forests of that state. After the parents had been in this country some years they were followed by most of their other children. They were James, the eldest son; Henry and Robert; also their married daughters Elizabeth, wife of William Wild, and Frances, wife of Francis Shelley. In 1861 all these families except Robert numbering probably twenty-five souls, migrated from Wisconsin to Gage county, Nebraska. All found homes in Rockford township except Robert, who came on later and settled in Thayer county, where he became very prominent both in public and private life. They became at once useful and valued citizens of our county and state and though all but Elizabeth Wild have answered the summons of death their posterity is to be found in numbers in the city of Beatrice, in Gage county and elsewhere in Nebraska, engaged in many vocations in the world of work. Joseph Hollingworth and his brothers, as well as Wild and Shelley, were successful farmers and belonged to the cultivated English rural class. These families all possessed the manly and womanly virtues that distinguish high-class English people wherever found.

Shortly after coming to Nebraska Joseph Hollingworth met and, on July 13, 1862, married Wealthy, the good and accomplished daughter of Rev. Albert L. Tinkham and his wife Sarah, pioneers, too, of Gage county. She was a successful school teacher. She taught the village school in Beatrice in 1861 and was teaching the second school taught in Blue Springs, in 1862, when she first met her future husband. Their marriage was from first to last a complete exemplification of perfect conjugal happiness and domestic felicity, broken only by the husband's death.

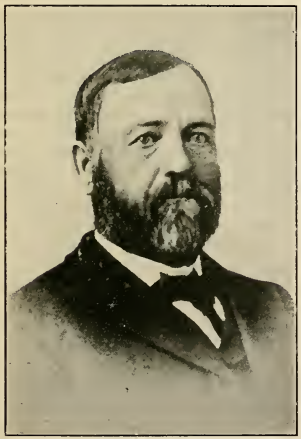
Joseph Hollingworth maintained a continuous residence here till 1882, when he went to Nuckolls county to live, on a section of land which he had purchased. In 1887 he returned to his farm in Rockford township, and in 1895 he came to Beatrice to live. After a few years spent in this city he removed to University Place and after a short time he went to California, whence eventually he went to Portland, Oregon, where he died October 23, 1914. His wife, though nearing life's boundary, still survives,— the object of the tender affection and solicitude of her children and friends.

To Joseph and Wealthy Hollingworth there were born five sons and three daughters. The sons are Arthur, Thomas, George, Albert, and Archie; the daughters are Alma, Arvilla, and Aimee. All reside in Portland, Oregon, except Albert, who for many years has made his home in Beatrice. He served during the Spanish-American war as captain of Company C of the First Nebraska Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, a company composed largely of Gage county men. He was severely wounded in battle in the Philippines but returned with his regiment in 1899, and on February 27, 1906, he was appointed postmaster of Beatrice, an office which he most ably and acceptably filled for more than eight years, maintaining, however, in some capacity a connection with the military

organization of the state. When the United States entered the present world war, in 1917, he was among the first to offer his services to his country, and he is now lieutenant colonel of one of the Nebraska regiments in training for service in France.

Hiram W. Parker

In the history of Gage county, few men have played so important a part as Hiram W. Parker. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, December 17, 1827; he died at Beatrice in 1899. Mr. Parker came to Nebraska from Ironton, Ohio, in April, 1857, and in 1858 he located a



Hiram W. Parker

claim in old Clay county, near the present village of Pickrell, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1865 he removed to Camden, in Seward county, Nebraska, where he built a saw mill, and followed this, in 1871, by adding a grist mill. On the 2d day of June, 1871, he was appointed register of the government land office at Beatrice, and by successive appointments he held this office until April 1, 1884. He was county judge of old Clay county, and was the clerk of that county in 1864, when Clay was partitioned between Lancaster and Gage counties. In 1860 Mr. Parker was elected to represent Gage, Clay, and Johnson counties in the territorial assembly, and he was also a member of the state constitutional convention in 1871.

Mr. Parker was married, at Austinburg, Ohio, in October, 1852, to Almira T. Dole, a native of that state. His living children are Franklin H. Parker of Santa Rosa, California, and Louis C. Parker of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Parker for a long time was vice-president of the First National Bank, and was also president of a brick manufacturing company and a large canning company, in both of which he lost money, and of an early-day telephone company of Beatrice. For a number of years he was a member and president of the school board of the city of Beatrice; he was also a long-time official of the Gage County Agricultural Society.

The remains of both Mr. and Mrs. Parker lie in the old Beatrice cemetery, where two children preceded them many years, and the spot is marked by a fine monument.

Though rather abrupt in manner, Mr. Parker at bottom was a good, reliable citizen, and to those who broke through his reserve he was a good friend.

Charles G. Dorsey

Charles G. Dorsey came to Brownville from Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1856, and engaged in the practice of the law, principally, however, in such litigation as grew out of land contests before the register and receiver in the Brownville land office. He combined with his practice a general real-estate business. On the 25th day of July, 1865, he was appointed register of the land office, and he held this position till March 7, 1867, when he was succeeded by Henry M. Atkinson, who was afterwards surveyor general of New Mexico. The land office was moved from Brownville to Beatrice July 7, 1868, and Mr. Dorsey removed from Brownville in 1869, and continued his practice before that office. His brother, George Dorsey, also

came from Brownville to Beatrice, and the brothers, with I. N. McConnell, for a number of years practically monopolized the litigation before the register and receiver of the Beatrice land office, at the same time doing a very large real-estate and insurance business, from which all the partners reaped large profits. In the late '70s Mr. Dorsey engaged in the hardware business in Beatrice, and about the year 1882, he erected the double, three-story, brick building in block sixty-four of the original town of Beatrice, west of the Burwood Hotel. Mr. Dorsey continued in the hardware business in one of these storerooms for a number of years, but during the hard times in 1893 to 1898, he lost his property largely, and, with a mere remnant of his property, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he made an heroic struggle to recoup his fortune. He again engaged in the hardware business and was gradually achieving success, when his death occurred.

Mr. Dorsey was for many years active and prominent in the affairs of Beatrice and Gage county. He was an able man and very considerate, as well as conservative in judgment. He was an esteemed and valuable citizen.

Before coming to Beatrice, Mr. Dorsey had been a member of the territorial legislature. While here, he was frequently a member of the city council. He was married at Peru, Nebraska, in the fall of 1871, to Mary E. Majors, a daughter of S. P. Majors, a prominent citizen and pioneer of Nemaha county, whose son, Colonel Thomas J. Majors, is a widely known citizen of the state of Nebraska. Three children were born to this husband and wife, namely: William C., Edith, and Harry Dorsey. Harry, the second son, died in Beatrice a number of years ago. The elder son, William C. Dorsey, resides at Bloomington, Nebraska, and is at the present time serving as district judge of his judicial district of the state.

Fordyce Roper

Fordyce Roper was one of the early settlers of old Clay county, having established his residence on Indian creek, twelve miles north of Beatrice, in 1857. He accompanied Judge Kinney, Dr. Wise, Dr. Wilmans, Dr. Reynolds, J. B. Weston, and others to the Beatrice townsite, the last of May, 1857. He became a resident of Beatrice in 1859, but in 1860 he went to Pike's Peak on a prospecting expedition for gold. He returned that fall and purchasing the buhrs of Austin's mill he removed them to Beatrice. Having acquired some interest in the saw mill at that time being operated on the bank of the Big Blue river (where Black Brothers merchant mill is now located) by one Waldripp, he proceeded to put in a dam across the river and erect a grist mill, both to be driven by water power. For some reason this venture did not prove a success, but Mr. Roper persisted in the enterprise and ultimately produced a very fair grist mill. In connection with this he developed a very efficient saw mill, planing mill, and lath and shingle industry. He was not only the first miller of Beatrice, but was also for many years one of its most important and most considered citizens. He was active in community affairs, serving the county as a commissioner from 1862 to and including 1864, and was chairman of the Gage county board when Clay county was divided, in 1864, between Lancaster and Gage counties. In 1869, on the resignation of Nathan Blakely as representative for Gage and Jefferson counties in the state legislature, Mr. Roper was elected to fill the vacancy. About the year 1875 he sold his mill to Henry Weatherald and his son Newton, and retired from the milling business. About the same time he sold his residence and removed from Nebraska to California, settling finally in Bakersfield, that state, where he died a few years ago.

Mr. Roper was the first miller of Beatrice. He had the business acumen to forsee the necessity for such an enterprise and the energy and enthusiasm which urged forward to its accomplishment. His old home stood and still stands facing South Second street where it terminates on Scott street. It is practically unchanged from what it was when he left it. It is now occupied by Henry Von Reisen as a residence.

Rev. Albert L. Tinkham

If worth of character and a long life devoted to the betterment of mankind are in themselves sufficient to perpetuate the memory of man, then no history of Gage county could be complete without some account of the Rev. Albert L. Tinkham.

This writer knew this good man long and well; many of the happiest recollections of his life are inseparably connected with him and his, and this sketch is written for the purpose of commemorating the life and character, and the noble and unselfish services to the pioneers of Gage county, of this heroic man.

Mr. Tinkham was born almost at the opening of the nineteenth century. He died in Beatrice at the age of seventy-eight years. He was derived from good New England stock and was endowed with all those qualities of heart and brain which win and retain the esteem of mankind. He was of a deeply religious nature and as a minister of the Gospel, he spent the greater part of his life in simply doing good. He exemplified perfectly in his long life as a Christian minister the sentiment contained in Tennyson's verse:

> "Howe'er it be, it seems to me
> 'Tis only noble to be good;
> Kind hearts are more than coronets
> And simple faith than Norman blood."

Mr. Tinkham came to Beatrice in 1860. He had been preceded here by his eldest son, Gilbert, who died among strangers, in the lonely, almost desolate hamlet of Beatrice, in the winter of 1859. On arriving here with his family, Mr. Tinkham became at once a useful and an influential member of the community. He found Beatrice a mere village of log and board shanties, where people hibernated in winter and vegetated in summer. It required courage of no ordinary character to bring a young and growing family, in what seems now that far-off day, to this outpost of civilization. He was presented by the townsite company with the two lots on Ella street, in block forty-nine, where the three-story building known as the Penner Block is located, and he proceeded to build thereon a two-room, hewed-log, clapboard-roofed house, which in its day was perhaps equal to any other residence in Beatrice. It was the furthest out of any of the houses and was located on the broad, open prairie. Here he dwelt with his family during four busy years and here his son Edward was born. He was a carpenter by trade and in addition to his pastoral duties he was accustomed to labor assiduously with saw and plane. He and his son Elias built the old frame school house on the block where the old high-school building, now Central grade-school building, stands. Mr. Tinkham was a Methodist clergyman and possessed the fire and enthusiasm of the early ministers of that church,— the Wesleys, Whitfield, Cartwright. For many years he was the best known minister of the Gospel in Gage county, extending his gentle ministrations far and wide amongst the hardy pioneers, officiating at marriages, funerals, and other services performed by clergymen; he was known by all and loved by all. In the lonely dugouts and log cabins he was a familiar figure and a welcome guest. People traveled far to hear him preach. At his maximum his voice was as mellow and resonant as a bell. No preaching could have been more simple and direct, more free from rant and cant. He possessed traits of character which disarmed enmity and left him without foe or detractor in all the world. He was gentle and considerate and endowed to a remarkable degree with the charity that envieth not, is not puffed up, that vaunteth not itself, that suffereth long and yet is kind. Strictly honorable and exact in his dealings with his fellow men, he expected Almighty God to be exact with him. Not ambitious of worldly wealth or honors, he was content with a life severely simple and plain.

In early life Mr. Tinkham married Sarah Wilson, at Wilsonville, Ohio. To this couple there were born Gilbert, Wealthy, Elias, Margaret Constance, James Leroy, Thomas, Alice, Edward, and Albert Tinkham. Both Wealthy and Margaret were amongst the first school teachers in Gage county. The former married Joseph Hollingworth, the latter Nathan Blakely.

In 1864, Mr. Tinkham was prevailed upon

by his friends to avail himself of the benefits of the homestead law, and he entered the quarter-section of land on Bear creek on the south side of the Scott-street road, extending from Cottonwood Grove school house a little way beyond the bridge. This tract of land continued to be the family home until his death. His remains, with those of his wife and other members of his family, lie in the family burial lot in the Beatrice cemetery.

Horace M. Wickham

Horace M. Wickham was born in Licking county, Ohio, September 2, 1832. His early life was spent in Andrew county, Missouri. He spent the years of 1855-1856 in Iowa, and on March 20, 1859, he became a resident of Gage county, Nebraska. During most of the intervening years up to the time of his death, September 4, 1906, he made this county his home and was by occupation a farmer. In 1867 he was elected a county commissioner of Gage county, and he served continuously in that responsible office till the year 1877,— the longest continuous service in that office of any of its numerous incumbents. On the 8th of May, 1859, Mr. Wickham was married, at the home of a Mr. Woodrow, on Bear creek, three miles northeast of Beatrice, to Lavinia Young, by Nathan Blakely, then acting probate judge of this county. Some years ago, on the occasion of a farewell party to Mr. Wickham at his home in Blakely township, Mr. Blakely, who performed this first marriage ceremony in Gage county, sent to Mr. Wickham a letter, which is not only self-explanatory but also sheds much light on the crude conditions of those early days. The letter reads as follows:

Horace M. Wickham,
Hoag, Gage County, Nebraska.
My Dear Friend:

I regret that my health is such that I can not avail myself of a kind invitation to meet you and your old friends in this county before you make your departure for your new home in the Platte valley, in this state. We have always known you long and well, and we think you should have remained with us the few remaining days of our earthly pilgrimage, to cheer and comfort one another.

We have all had many joys and sorrows since we located in this wild, unsettled country so many years ago. We found many good and true friends among the old settlers of this county. We cherish the memory of many departed ones and the hearty handshake of others, who, with us, will soon bid adieu to all earthly scenes, we hope for a brighter and better life.

I have always felt a special interest in you and yours, for, in the spring of 1859, you asked me to marry you to Miss Lavinia Young. As there was no minister in this part of the country, and I being the only county official that seemed to have authority, I was compelled to perform the operation. There had never been a marriage in this county, so I could not get any information just what to say or how to proceed. I lay awake a good share of two or three nights trying to learn my piece; then I wrote it down and used to declaim it out on the prairie — a mile from any human being. As the audience neither applauded or hissed, I decided it was good.

The ordeal came, and one pleasant Sunday in May (8th), 1859, I started for Bear creek, where Mr. Woodrow and family lived, near Fulton's Spring, Miss Young living with them. On the green grass, under a new tent, I tried my very best to make Mr. Wickham and Miss Young husband and wife, and, as far as I have ever learned, I succeeded.

I don't know what I said and I never dared ask you or your wife, but as you appeared to be so smiling, I could not tell whether it was from what I had said or from your inexpressible happiness of being made a husband.

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon you and your family henceforth and for evermore, and evermore, Your friend,

Nathan Blakely.

The reader has now looked upon the first marriage solemnized in Gage county, and its commemoration by a man of keen intellect and unquestioned veracity.

Shortly after this marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Wickham went to the state of Colorado with a view of making their home there. Here the young bride was taken ill and died, at South Park, Colorado, August 7, 1860. Mr. Wickham later married, at St. Joseph, Missouri, Mrs. Isabelle Beebe, who passed away in 1873, leaving two children, Clarissa and Franklin P. Wickham.

Isma P. Mumford

Isma P. and Elizabeth Mumford were amongst the first pioneers in Gage county. Isma P. Mumford was born in the state of Maryland, while Elizabeth Mallock, was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1830. She was the granddaughter of a Revolutionary soldier and the daughter of a man who bore arms for his country in the war of 1812. When twenty-one years of age she became the wife of Isma P. Mumford. Shortly after their marriage, in 1853, they migrated from Ohio to the new state of Wisconsin, and in 1857 they came seeking a home in the new territory of Nebraska. On the way out they were joined at Plattsmouth by William and Nathan Blakely, and together these heroic pioneers of Gage county made their slow way across the unmarked, trackless prairies of southeastern Nebraska. Hearing that the Big Blue river valley offered great advantages to settlers, on account of the abundant timber and rich bottom land which lined its course, they traveled thither, and on the 17th day of July, almost by accident, stumbled upon the members of the Beatrice Townsite Company, who were engaged in erecting a company house on their townsite, which building later became the property of Albert Towle and widely famous as "Pap's Cabin." They also found a cluster of covered wagons and tents, in the neighborhood of the Kees Manufacturing plant, a little above the junction of Indian creek and the Big Blue river. Learning that the representatives of the townsite company had founded a town and purposed to remain and carry their enterprise to fulfillment, and pleased both with the prospect and company, the little party resolved to cast in its fortunes with that old guard which then and for many succeeding years held this remote outpost of civilization against all hardships, privations and discouragements.

For several months Mrs. Mumford and a Miss Bailey, who accompanied the party, were the only white women in the settlement, and probably the only white women in the county. Of Miss Bailey this writer is unable to give any further account, but Mrs. Mumford enjoyed the distinction of being the sole representative of her sex in Gage county until the arrival of Mrs. Catherine Towle, in the autumn of 1857. The names of both these good ladies must be forever spoken with reverence by those for whom the early history of Beatrice and Gage county has the slightest interest. Both possessed unusual mental vigor; both were endowed with those traits of personal character that always command and retain the respect of mankind; both have long since passed to their rest. One sleeps

Elizabeth Mumford
The first white woman settler in Gage county

beside her honored husband in the old cemetery, near this city, and the other is wrapped in kindred earth of a sister state. To Mrs. Towle belongs the honor of being the mother of the first child born in Gage county, a daughter, Katie Towle, and to Mrs. Mumford, the honor of being the mother of the first white male child born within the boundaries of our county. Both these children, having reached the age of maturity, were long ago gathered to the bosom of Mother Earth. Katie Towle became the wife of George V. Ayers, of Deadwood, South Dakota. She died on the 28th day of March 1890, aged thirty-two years. Her remains lie with those of her parents in the family burial ground in

the Beatrice cemetery, while the turf that enfolds a father's and a brother's clay wraps also the dust of Dawson Mumford, he having perished in an accident, at the age of twenty-two years — the age when most men begin life.

Shortly after his arrival, Isma P. Mumford began the erection of the building which in his hands became, and long afterward continued, to be a leading public inn of the struggling village of Beatrice. "Pap's Cabin" consisted of an unhewn story-and-a-half log structure, which stood about where the baggage room of the Burlington station is located. It was the first structure of any kind erected in Beatrice, and Mumford's inn the second. Mumford's building differed from Pap's Cabin, in being a hewed instead of a round log house. It still stands.

The remaining history of Isma P. and Elizabeth Mumford may be briefly told. On August 7, 1857, at an election attended principally by the members of the Beatrice Townsite Company for the purpose of organizing Gage county by electing a complete set of county officials, Mr. Mumford was chosen county treasurer, and he held that office one year. He bears the distinction of being the first county treasurer of Gage county. During the great Indian panic of 1864, which swept over this portion of Nebraska with irresistible force, the Mumfords, with many other families, left the territory, some never to return. But in the spring of 1865 Isma P. and Elizabeth Mumford, with their children, established a home near what was know as the "Steam Wagon Road," six miles west of Nebraska City. Here, in 1873, Isma died, and his wife, in 1875, removed permanently from the state, taking up her residence with a son, in Nodaway county, Missouri, where she died in March, 1897. They were the parents of nine children, seven sons and two daughters. One son, James, became a prominent Congregational minister, and as far as known to this writer, all their children who reached maturity became useful and worthy members of society.

James B. Mattingly

James B. Mattingly was born in the state of Kentucky, on the 8th day of April, 1818, near Elizabethtown, Harden county. In 1841 he migrated to the territory of Illinois and settled in Moultrie county. He was of a roving disposition, and leaving Illinois, about 1847, he moved to Iowa; from there, in 1849, to Platte county, Missouri. In 1857 he left Missouri and started west along the Oregon Trail in an aimless search for a new location. At Ash Point, a station on the old highway, he struck a dim trail and followed it to the Otoe and Missouri Indian village. Guided by reports of desirable locations further north, he passed the site of Blue Springs, and finally selected a quarter-section of land in the southwest corner of Rockford township, on Mud creek, in June 1857. About the year 1866 he sold his homestead to James Millard, and moved to Jefferson county, Nebraska, where he entered a tract of land, eighty acres of which now form the most populous and wealthy portion of the city of Fairbury. Shortly after arriving in Jefferson county he engaged somewhat extensively in the freighting business, along the Oregon Trail, for a few months, an occupation which he had followed also while residing in Gage county. When, in 1867, the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad put an end to the freighting business along the old trail, Mattingly established himself on the Little Blue river, within pistol shot of the court house in Fairbury, in the saw-mill business, and while engaged in sawing lumber for homesteaders who were rapidly flowing into that section of country, he was visited one day by Woodford G. McDowell, a resident of Fairbury, Illinois. The St. Joseph & Grand Island Railway was pointing up the Little Blue river, and McDowell, with keen prevision, had selected the present site of Fairbury as the location for the county seat of Jefferson county. Mattingly possessed in a remarkable degree the imagination which always goes with adventure, and McDowell had no difficulty in getting him to enter into his scheme to found

a town, to be called Fairbury, which should be the chief city of that entire section of country. McDowell had obtained title to eighty acres adjoining Mattingly's. They jointly laid out and platted the town of Fairbury, the history of which has more than fulfilled the dreams of both its founders.

James Bartholomew Mattingly belonged to that class of men which is ever adrift in the forefront of advancing civilization. After investing some money in the town of Endicott, in the vain endeavor to boom it into a city of importance, and losing heavily in the venture, he, with his son, Joel Thomas, his wife, and daughter Polly, migrated to the Pacific slope. All are dead now but the son, Joel Thomas, who lives at Condon, Oregon, in fairly comfortable circumstances. Mr. Mattingly himself died October 19, 1907, aged eighty-nine years. At the time of his death he was a resident of a little town in northern Washington.

James B. Mattingly was a wonderfully active man; his occupations were diverse; he was at once a soldier, a freighter on the Oregon Trail, a speculator, a farmer, a miller, a carpenter, and dabbled in many other occupations. With many faults of character and of mental equipment and attitude, he was at bottom a reliable citizen and active in the public welfare. He was county commissioner of Gage county in 1861-62-63; he was deputy sheriff, bailiff of the courts, justice of the peace and occupied other civil positions of trust, if not of profit, in Gage county. He taught the first Sunday school in Rockford township and one of the first in our county. This Sunday school was organized in April, 1859. The writer of this volume, with his brother, and Joel Thomas Mattingly were his only pupils, although the school lasted two or three years.

James B. Mattingly was as eccentric a character as he was a picturesque one, and when he died, the world could have better spared a better man.

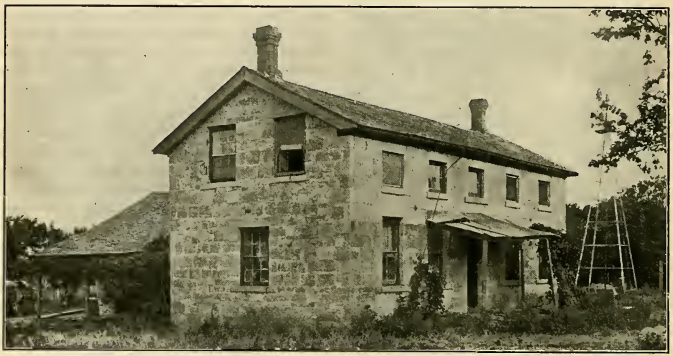
Samuel Jones

Samuel Jones was born in Grayson county, Virginia, in 1826. When he was eight years of age his parents moved to Ohio, and settled near Gallipolis, Gallia county, where he grew to manhood. In 1845 he married Rebecca Pethoud, daughter of John Pethoud, one of the first settlers of Gage county, Nebraska. In 1855 he moved from Ohio to Platte county, Missouri, and after six months' residence there he moved to Jefferson county, Kansas, locating thirty-three miles west of Leavenworth. In In September, 1857, he came to Gage county, Nebraska territory, and in the spring of 1858 he made preëmption filing and settlement on the northeast quarter of section 15, Midland township. He built a log house on his preemption claim that year, the carpentry work being done by H. F. Cook, one of the founders of the city of Beatrice. With some additions to this rude structure, to accommodate his increasing family, the building constituted his home for several years, but in 1866, he began the erection of a large stone house, near the old pioneer log cabin. This was finished by 1868 and was probably the most commodious farm residence in the county. The wood work was done by Tom Redpath, who was afterward drowned while bathing in the Big Blue river above the dam, when that stream was in flood.

Samuel Jones was a farmer all his life, but during the pioneer days in Nebraska Territory he engaged in freighting and ranching to some extent, along the old Oregon Trail, and was one of the best known freighters and all-around business men in the county. He was a very active man, good natured, kindly, and was heartily liked by the early settlers. He died February 8, 1872, and with his father, William Jones, and sister, Mrs. Elizabeth McDaniel, and daughter Helen, aged five years, is buried on the hill a quarter of a mile south of the old stone dwelling. His wife, Rebecca Jones, died at Gooding, Idaho, about 1901, while making her home with a daughter, and was buried there.

To these pioneer parents there were born fourteen children — eight sons and six daughters. Seven of these children are numbered with the dead. The living are William R. Jones, the eldest son, who resides in the city of Beatrice and has made his home in Gage

county since September, 1857, when he was eleven years of age; the third daughter, Sarah A. Drew, wife of Lorenzo L. Drew, also lives in Beatrice; John T. Jones and Elizabeth Dwyer, son and daughter, live at Gooding, Idaho; Leroy C. Jones, another son, is United States marshal of Idaho and lives in the city of Boise; Albert Jones, a son, lives at Baker City, Oregon; Rebecca (Jones) Pethoud, daughter, lives at Cotopaxi, Colorado.



Pioneer Residence of Samuel Jones

The old stone mansion erected as a family home by Samuel Jones in 1866 is in process of demolition and will soon be a thing of the past. Time was when this pioneer residence was a place of great interest and importance. It was the abode of hospitality, generous, ungrudging, and was a center of the social forces of the surrounding community. It stood, staunch and inviting, near one of the old trails that led from Beatrice up Indian creek bottom and on past its portals to the head of Salt creek, and down that stream to the salt basin, where it connected with the old trails from Nebraska City, Plattsmouth and Omaha. One after another the pioneer homes have disappeared, until at the present moment there are probably not twenty of these ancient buildings left in the county. With them are rapidly disappearing the traditions and the romance of the past.

Algernon Sidney Paddock

Algernon Sidney Paddock was born at Glens Falls, New York, November 9, 1830. He died at Beatrice, Nebraska, October 17, 1897. He was the son of Ira A. Paddock, a well known and prominent lawyer of Glens Falls. He received his elementary education in the common schools of his native city, and, preparing himself for college in the academy of Glens Falls, at the age of eighteen years he entered Union College (now university), at Schenectady, New York, where so many of the able men of the nation have received their education. On account of financial affairs he was compelled to leave the college when just entering upon his senior year. For a while he taught school, reading law at the same time, and, having been admitted to the bar in his native state, he, in May, 1857, came by steam boat from St. Louis, Missouri, to Omaha. He was a man of great amiability and pleasing address, and these and other qualities won him influential friends in Nebraska from the moment of his arrival. He was always an

ardent, unflinching and loyal Republican, and in 1860 he was a delegate from Nebraska, to the national convention of his party which nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. In the convention Mr. Paddock, however, supported his friend William H. Seward for that office, a service which that able and good man never forgot, and in 1861, through his influence, Mr. Lincoln appointed Mr. Paddock territorial secretary of state for Nebraska, an office which he both adorned and exalted for the period of six years, retiring only upon the admission of Nebraska to the Union, March 1, 1867. At the first state legislature Mr. Paddock was a candidate for United States senator, but was defeated by General John M. Thayer, a Civil war hero of Nebraska. In 1869 he became interested in the construction of the Burlington Railroad system in Nebraska, and for a while maintained business relations with the officers of that railroad company. In 1872 he moved from Omaha to Beatrice, which was his home for the remainder of his life.

Mr. Paddock was elected United States senator for Nebraska in 1875, in place of Thomas W. Tipton, for the term of six years. In 1881 he was defeated for that office by Charles H. Van Wyck, and in 1882 he was appointed a member of the very important "Utah Commission" by his friend President Arthur, upon which body he served with great distinction until October 1, 1886, when he resigned. In 1887 Mr. Paddock was again chosen United States senator for the state of Nebraska, serving until 1893, when his place was taken by William V. Allen.

On entering the United States senate few western senators were as well equipped as Mr. Paddock for serving their section of the country. He was familiar with western conditions, versed in the land laws under which title could be obtained to land in the public domain, he was acquainted in detail with questions growing out of Indian depredations, school-land selections, surveys and re-surveys of public lands, Indian and military reservations, and the necessary military equipment for all the great west. He was indefatigable in his efforts to secure proper legislation for the entire country and particularly for the western states and territories. Perhaps it is no more than just to say that Nebraska has never had in either house of congress an abler, more conscientious and more faithful and intelligent servant than Senator Paddock.

For many years Senator Paddock was not only a citizen of Beatrice but he was also a force in this community. In 1887-1888 he built the Hotel Paddock, which in many respects is the most important private property in the city of Beatrice. He platted and laid out Fairview and Paddock additions to Beatrice, and in other ways exhibited his interest in the destiny of the fair city of Beatrice.

In his personality Senator Paddock was one of the most attractive of men. He was extremely optimistic in temperament and his faith in Nebraska was unbounded,— and this through good, as through evil report. Mr. Paddock stood four-square to all the world, and, though often subject to adverse criticism by his political opponents, no man ever had the temerity to attack him in his private life.

On the 22d day of December, 1859, Mr. Paddock married Anna L. Mack, of St. Lawrence county, New York, a daughter of Daniel Mack, an honored citizen of that state. It was a most felicitous marriage, covering a period of thirty-eight years. His devoted wife still (1918) survives him, and makes her home in Lincoln. The children of this marriage were Daniel Mack and Susan, both of whom died at an early age; Harriet, wife of O. J. Colman, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Francis Amelia, now deceased; and Franklin Algernon Paddock, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Both time and space forbid the further extension of these sketches of territorial pioneers of our county. The reader will find in the biographical department of this work and elsewhere, the life history in more or less detail of a large number of these pioneers. The chief aim of the writer in these sketches has been to show the kind of men and women who were the first to people our county, and who set in motion those forces and influences which eventuated in the creation of a great, free commonwealth, one of the most attractive and interesting in the sisterhood of states.

CHAPTER XVIII

NARRATIVE OF GEORGE GALE, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Gale was born in Columbia county, New York, May 17, 1828, and died at his home in Adams township, Gage county, January 9, 1899. He was descended from a well known family of the Empire state, members of which had participated in both the Revolutionary war and the war of 1812. His parents were Alonzo and Phoebe (Peck) Gale, both natives of Dutchess county, New York. His father was of Irish descent, his mother a Hollander. When he was six years of age his parents moved from New York to Connecticut, where he was reared and educated. March 26, 1850, Mr. Gale married Margaret M. Shaw, the daughter of Stephen P. Shaw, himself a well known pioneer immigrant to Gage county.

Shortly after his marriage George Gale moved to the new state of Michigan, and in 1854 he went still further west, settling in Neosha county, Wisconsin. From Wisconsin, in 1858, with his family and household effects, carried in two ox-drawn wagons, he migrated to Otoe county, in the territory of Nebraska. He remained in that county until 1860, when he came to what is now Adams township, Gage county, but then part of old Clay county. Here he purchased land, and in 1863, under the homestead law, he added to his purchase one hundred twenty acres more. Mr. Gale was a most reliable, conscientious man. He had a keen sense of right and was accustomed to follow the inner light of conscience wherever it led. By occupation he was a farmer, and was content with that simple, uneventful life. He was well and favorably known in Gage county and esteemed as a man of strong common sense and sturdy integrity of character. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gale, namely, Edward B., Mary A., Charles F. and Margaret.

Mr. Gale was the second assessor of Gage county, having been elected to that office in 1869. For over twenty years he was a member of the school board of his school district and filled other neighborhood positions. Not only was George Gale himself thus accredited but members of his family also have been useful and esteemed citizens of our county. His sister Carrie was one of the early and successful school teachers of the county. In 1865 she taught the Beatrice summer school and in 1866 she taught both the fall and winter terms in the old cottonwood, frame school-house in Beatrice, this writer having been much honored in being one of her pupils at the winter term. She became the wife of Louis T. Griggs, and though long since gathered to the bosom of Mother Earth both she and her husband are represented in the world of work by their children, George, Clifford, Albert, Kirk, and Mollie, all honored and useful members of society. Mr. Gale's son, Charles F., but recently deceased, was for many years prominent in the social and business life of the city of Beatrice.

The following narrative was written by Mr. Gale in 1876. Primarily it was intended as a history of old Clay county, but it is so largely devoted to the various phases of pioneer life as he saw and lived it as to impart to it historic value of a high order. It is first-hand matter and probably stands alone as a contemporary narrative of pioneer conditions in our county. It supplements to some extent other chapters of this volume, and as evidence it has the weight of an eye witness on most of the subjects considered by its

author. For all these reasons, as well as from respect which the author of this work bears to the memory of Mr. Gale, his narrative is given place here. The interesting article is reproduced without formal marks of quotation.

History of Old Clay County from its Settlement up to 1876

BY GEORGE GALE

In writing a history of this section of Nebraska, that is to say that part of it once comprised within the limits of Clay county and now attached to the counties of Lancaster and Gage, it will be necessary, or at least proper, to go back to the organization of the territorial government, and also to touch somewhat on the history of other and adjoining counties.

As is well known, the act of congress organizing the territories of Kansas and Nebraska was passed in the spring of 1854, thus opening up at once these two territories to settlement under the policy usually known as popular sovereignty, by which the question of freedom or slavery was left to a vote of the people at the time of forming state constitutions.

All this is necessary to be understood in order to understand why Nebraska, with a superior soil, climate and geographical position, was comparatively neglected by settlers, who agreed by common consent to make Kansas the battle-ground between freedom and slavery, and who rushed to that territory in order to assist in establishing such institutions as they personally approved.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gale

Very little permanent settlement was made in Nebraska this year. Some towns along the Missouri river were located by parties who had been watching the land for years and waiting for it to come under the provisions of the preëmption laws. Omaha, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Brownville, and perhaps other towns were laid out this year.

The first session of the legislature of Ne-

braska was held this year, some surveying was done, and some few farm claims were taken near the river, but many of the settlers went back to Iowa or Missouri to winter.

In 1855 some farm claims were taken fifteen or twenty miles from the river, but nothing in the way of provisions was raised in this or the following year.

In 1856 people in search of first-class locations explored the country on the Nemaha, and as far west as upper Salt creek, but few, however, of the claims then taken were ever occupied by them, but were afterward taken up by others.

The first permanent settlement in Clay county was made on Salt creek by the Preys — father and sons — Mr. Davison, the Wallingfords, and others whose names are not now remembered, all of whom are now gone except the Preys.

These settlers were all driven out by the Indians in the fall of 1857. They wintered at Nebraska City and returned to their claims in the spring of 1858, but the Indians troubled them more or less for several years, as we shall have occasion to relate further on. They laid out the town of Olatha this year.

In 1857 a great many settlements were made in Clay county. On the Nemaha, Mr. John O. Adams settled early in the spring and put in and raised a crop of sod corn. Mr. John Stafford came this spring and also raised a crop. Mr. Golden and sons, Mr. H. Reynolds and brother, Charlie Hickock and, farther down the east branch, Mr. John Watson, Mr. William Freeborn, R. Swallow, B. J. Baker and others.

In July of this year came Stephen P. Shaw and sons — William, John, James, and Stephen — and James and William Silvernail. They located on the branch above Mr. Adams at Lacona. Jacob and Leroy Hildebrand also came this year, and settled on the branch known as Jake's creek, near Adams.

About the same time a settlement was made on Indian creek by E. C. Horner, Charley Austin, a gentleman named Phelps, H. W. Parker, besides others who proceeded to lay out the town of Austin, which now exists only on paper, if anywhere. Also, further down in Gage county, the Pethouds — father and son. Beatrice was also located and surveyed this season by what was and still is known as the Beatrice Town Company.

In November the Nemaha settlement was further augmented by the arrival of Egbert Shaw and John Lyons and their families. There was another settlement made this year on the head of the little Nemaha, by Mr. Noble, Mr. Rodencamp, Mr. Meecham and others, and I think they laid out a town near where Bennett now stands.

At the time these settlements were made in Clay county there had been raised in the state nothing of any consequence toward supporting the people. Everything had to be imported from the east. Those who had money could buy at the Missouri river anything they wanted but many had very little money, while some had to sell their best team or cow in order to live until a crop could be grown.

Some few who had their houses built went to the river and worked for those who had work to do and money to pay for it. However, the most of these supposed when they came that they had money enough to keep their families until they could get a crop and then make enough by farming or in some other way to pay for their land, for it must be borne in mind that there was no homestead law then. Their land was taken under the preëmption law and they did not expect the land would be brought into market for many years, and that perhaps before that time came congress would pass a homestead law and save them all further trouble. In this they deceived themselves, as they found to their great disgust a year or two afterward.

Although land could be taken from the first under the preëmption law it could not be entered at private sale until it had first been offered at public sale to the highest bidder. This being the case, the settlers felt perfectly safe with regard to their claims as long as the land was withheld from market. But in the summer of 1858, to their great astonishment and consternation, the land from the Missouri river to range 8 was advertised to be

offered for sale in September. Only a few of the settlers were prepared to pay for their land, while most of them had no recourse but to hire a land warrant at forty per cent. interest, for such were the very moderate terms of the gentlemen who petitioned the President to bring the land into market.

Of course they had the choice of selling their teams and fighting the battle bare-handed, or letting the matter take its own course and run the risk of their claims being bid on by speculators, and losing their land, and in some cases costly improvements besides. But as nearly every man thought his claim was the center of the universe, the very pivot around which all the rest of the world revolved, and that consequently it offered an irresistible temptation to some speculator to buy it, nearly all were frightened into buying land warrants on time, at forty per cent. interest, and proving up their claims.

After this little game had been successfully played, the land was withdrawn from sale for one year. The next year, however, in 1859, it was all offered for sale as far west as to include Clay county. This produced very little excitement, people having recovered from their fright, and very little land was sold — perhaps none that was held under the pre-emption law. Some proved up and paid before the sale, and some let it run and took their land under the homestead law, in 1863.

We may as well say here that most of those who located borrowed land warrants on their claims lost them with all their improvements, and in some cases after paying interest at forty per cent. for several years.

There were no roads at this time except Indian trails, nor bridges on the streams, and when they were obliged to go to the river or anywhere else, three or four would go together, traveling on the divides as much as possible, and when a stream had to be crossed they would take all the teams across except one, then run one of the wagons down the bank into the creek, then hitch on all the teams with chain enough to reach to the top of the bank, then pull the wagon out and then repeat the process on all the rest of the wagons.

But this was too much trouble for an every-day business and nearly every settler soon had a good bridge or a ford for his own use, which were always and for many years used by the public.

At the time of which we are treating, the settlers all used ox teams, and there were very few horses in the country.

The possession of a riding nag was an indication of the wealth of its owner, and the man who owned a horse team was set down at once as a blooded aristocrat.

In making long trips on the road they always carried their own provisions and bedding, and in winter feed for their teams. If the weather was fine they always camped out nights, but if it was cold or stormy they would always be welcome to spread their beds on the floor of some kind-hearted settler — Joe Sanders', the widow McKee's, Solonberger's, Brownell's, or almost any house from here to Nebraska City. But in the winter time Brownell's was the most popular place to stop of any on the road and your historian and nearly all of the Nemaha settlers have many times had experience of the hospitality of this genial, kind-hearted old gentleman. The old settlers of the Nemaha will never forget the nights they have lain on his floor, before the broad, open fireplace piled with blazing logs, and listened to the old gentleman's stories, and told others to match them until sometimes they would all fall asleep in the midst of a story, only to resume it at the same place in the morning.

Those were pleasant times to look back upon, but they seemed not so pleasant then, and probably if the same times were offered us now we should decline with many thanks.

These trips to the river, though not strictly pleasure parties, were occasions of considerable fun and enjoyment, provided the weather was good, but if the weather proved bad and stormy, the situation offered but few attractions, even to an old settler.

They always started on these trips in good weather, with the intention of making certain

well known points each night to camp, and if no accident happened and the roads were good and if the weather was not too hot for the cattle, the points were sure to be made. Some of the most popular camping places with the Nemaha people were Syracuse ford, Brownell's, Rock ford, Delaware City, and afterward at Solenberger, Nursery Hill, Wilson Bridge, etc.

They generally managed to camp near enough to Nebraska City to go in, and get out again at night to the same place or, at least out of town. While a part of the men, and perhaps some of the women (for they liked to go to town just as well then as now), were gone, those left in the settlement looked after the families and stock of those who were gone. And when it was time for the absent ones to return, those at home would watch for the teams coming over the hill and would sometimes gather at the first house on the road to meet them and get the first news, receive their letters from friends east, and the children to receive their presents, for, in spite of poverty, something for them was sure to be found in some of the packages that came from the city.

As we have before remarked, there was a little sod corn raised in Clay county in 1857. Nearer to the river there was considerable, and it was sold for a good price to those who had not yet raised any. This served to demonstrate the fact that corn would grow in Nebraska, and to encourage the settlers to plant all they could the next year, when most bountiful crops of corn, potatoes, beans, pumpkins, squashes and all manner of garden vegetables were grown, and this was the last one and only good crop of sod corn grown in this section of country.

This success in farming solved the provision question so far as the raw material was concerned, but mills were needed to grind the corn. Several small mills were established at different places along the river this year or the year before, but the people here who were out of flour and out of money could not wait for the new crop to mature and dry sufficiently to grind. Thus they commenced living on the new corn as soon as it was in roasting ears, and as soon as they could get it dry enough to grind they hauled it to the river and had it ground, if they could find a mill that was in running order, for they were generally out of repair and sometimes our people would have to wait a week for their grinding; sometimes they would return without it and make another trip for it; and in the meantime they would borrow meal or flour of each other until the entire stock of the whole settlement was exhausted — and then all would go to making hominy, grinding in coffee mills and pounding in mortars or grating on tin pans, sometimes for weeks together until grinding could be had.

When the Austin mill started there was great rejoicing on the Nemaha, for now grinding could be had within from fifteen to twenty-five miles, and the trip could be made in two days. This mill only ran one day in a week and sometimes only one day in two weeks, but it proved a very convenient thing for us until we began to raise wheat, when we were again obliged to go to the city, or some other point on the river, or into Iowa. Your historian and many others have been to Iowa to mill and been gone on the trip ten days.

The Beatrice mill was built in 1861 and burned in 1862, but it was rebuilt in 1863, and since that time there has been very little trouble about mills.

There are people who think we are not now very well provided with mill facilities, but it was worse during the days of the first settlements. One word more about the Austin mill. If from any cause the mill could not be started on the regular day, or the day had not been appointed, Mr. Austin would either ride over to the Nemaha or send a man to let us know when it would start, so that no one would come to the mill and be disappointed. Such men were millers in those days, but they are all dead, and they died poor.

The settlers commenced farming on a very small scale at first, raising garden vegetables, potatoes, etc., for their own use but nothing for sale for several years except corn, for which there was a market at Nebraska City, though after the first good crop prices were low.

In the meantime they had tried wheat to a small extent and it had not proved successful, and people had got the idea that the country was not adapted to wheat.

In the year 1858 news came of the discovery of gold near Pike's Peak, and this greatly raised the hopes of the people with regard to markets for their produce, which would not at this time pay the expense of hauling to an eastern market, but it was two or three years before their hopes were realized and the gold fields afforded a market for anything of consequence. In the meantime many of the settlers had become discouraged and had gone back to the east, to the mountains or to the war, and those who remained looked dubiously at the prospect of making homes here, with the result that there were actually less people in the territory in 1862 than there were in 1859, by about ten thousand, fully one-third of the people having left the territory.

The opening of the war had a very depressing influence on the affairs of Nebraska, especially the financial and business affairs. Coming as it did after a general failure of crops in 1860, on account of drouth, it found our people with little or nothing to sell and no market for that. It seemed as if the world had come to a stand-still. There were times when produce could not be exchanged for goods at Nebraska City, and even toward the close of the war, when confidence had become somewhat restored, it would take two bushels of wheat to buy a pound of coffee or a yard of brown sheeting, and many other things in proportion. Of course we did not put on much style in dress or live very luxuriously in any way. This state of things drove us from the Missouri river as a market and obliged us to look to the westward for the sale of our products.

There was at the opening of the war quite a large increasing population in Colorado that must be fed with produce from the east, and the people of Nebraska were quick to take advantage of this new market.

To illustrate to what expedients our people were driven during the war, take such instances as these. In the fall of 1862, I think it was, wheat was worth at Nebraska City, thirty-five cents and salt was eight dollars a barrel. How were the people to get salt? This is the way; they hitched up their teams and went to the salt basin on Salt creek, near where Lincoln now stands, scraped up the salt that rises to the surface and is crystalized by the action of the sun, hauled it home, dissolved it, purified it, boiled it down and made a very fine article of salt.

Not only were the people of this section, but of all South Platte, a part of Iowa, and the country westward to the mountains, to a great extent supplied with salt from this source. In fact manufactories of salt of considerable extent and capacity were established there, and quite a town was built up, all of which has long since disappeared.

They could not pay two dollars per pound for tobacco so they raised their own tobacco. They did not use coffee or tea every day. Sorghum syrup took the place of sugar, which was at one time two and a half pounds for a dollar.

Some farmers who had heavy teams hauled their produce to Denver or went into a regular freighting business; others moved on to the lines of travel, and established ranches for the accommodation of the travel, while others staid on their farms and raised produce and hauled to the ranches and sold it, the produce being mostly corn, potatoes, pork, eggs and butter. At this time hundreds of farms were abandoned and left uncultivated in all parts of the territory.

The west was our principal market until the building of the Union Pacific Railroad, which destroyed the market for corn and drove the people of this county to raising wheat, for which we had now a pretty good market eastward.

The early settlers had the idea that wheat would not do well here until, in 1862 or 1863, some astonishingly large and good crops were raised, but for the want of a paying market very little was raised for sale until about 1866. Since that time wheat has been the principal crop grown for sale, and it was for many years

considered the surest and best paying crop that could be grown.

The war found our people almost unanimous for sustaining the government. Some few secessionists were found along the river, but they speedily left Nebraska for more congenial climes. In this county a few opposed the coercion of the states, but they were generally very mild in the expression of their views.

During the winter of 1860-1861 the legislature passed a law for organizing the militia of the territory into companies, regiments, brigades and divisions, for purposes of defence in case of danger. Accordingly an election was called by proclamation, and those persons liable to military duty were required to meet at their respective county seats and organize one or more companies, according to population, by electing officers. In Clay county the able-bodied men met at Austin some day in June, 1861, and organized a company by electing for captain, Delos Mills, of Salt Creek; first lieutenant, James Silvernail, of the Nemaha; second lieutenant, H. W. Parker, of Austin; and a full set of non-commissioned officers.

Clay county had, at this time, a population of about one hundred and fifty or perhaps a trifle more, of whom about forty were voters. At the first election after the organization of the county, Nemaha precinct, composed of about one-fourth of the territory of the county, cast seven votes, being the full vote of the precinct, and as late as the division of the county the highest number of votes polled was thirteen; most of the other precincts had more.

We do not know the number or the names of all those who enlisted in the army at the different times under the different calls of the president for volunteers, but Clay county, although a frontier county, furnished a large number of soldiers, and the territory kept her quota full under all calls, without resorting to the draft. Among those who enlisted under the first call for three hundred thousand, were John Hilman, Jr., William Shaw, Egbert Shaw, James I. Shaw, William Hand, Charlie Austin (who went east and enlisted in an Ohio regiment), William Rudruff, and two young men on the Blue whose names are forgotten. These all, with the exception of Charlie Austin, enlisted in the Nebraska regiment and went to the front. None of them was killed in the service except William Shaw, who was killed by an accident, at St. Louis, in 1863.

Many others served for the defense of the frontier for different terms and at different times, among whom were Thaddeus Hillman, John Stafford, Nelson Adams, two young men named Etherton, on Salt creek, James Iler and several others whose names are not now known, as they were new comers and did not return to the country after their term of service expired. One son of John Hilman enlisted in an Iowa regiment and was killed in the first battle he was engaged in.

A history of this section would not be complete without an account of the division of Clay county and the distribution of its territory between the counties of Lancaster and Gage. All history has for its object the instruction of the present and future by the lessons and experiences of the past, and for this reason the history of the division of Clay county must be written.

As early as the fall of 1863, rumors of a plan for dividing Clay county began to reach the people of the several settlements of the county, but this did not arouse much interest, from the fact that no one seemed to know anything definite about it, or where the rumors came from, and further it was well known that scarcely any one in Clay county favored such division. But soon men in Beatrice would drop a hint now and then to feel the pulse of our people in this matter, but they found them all against any such scheme and for some time we heard nothing more about it, and we supposed the thing was dead. But in the fall of 1864 the matter took such shape that there could be no mistaking the fact that there were only two or three in the extreme southern and about the same number in the extreme northern part who favored the plan or assisted in carrying it out; and they were all interested in town-site speculations which the scheme was supposed to favor.

At this time Clay, Gage, and Johnson counties formed one representative district, and John Cadman managed to get the nomination for representative from this district. All this was apparent, still but few knew that this was a part of the plan to defraud the people of their rights. The plan was soon discovered, but too late to do anything of any consequence toward defeating Cadman's election. In fact, nothing could have been done under any circumstances.

This man Cadman lived on Salt creek at Saltillo, on the extreme north side of the county. He owned a town-site further down the creek, where the insane asylum has since been built, and this, if Clay county was divided, would be very near the center of Lancaster and of course would be likely with shrewd management to become the county seat of Lancaster, which was not yet located.

On the south the proprietors and people of Beatrice never felt quite sure that they could hold the county seat of Gage county at that place, because it was within six miles of the north line of the county and considerably to the west of the center of the county, while the geographical center lay on the Big Blue river and was in every way as good a place to build a town as at Beatrice. Consequently the people of that town took an active interest in the conspiracy and worked for Cadman's nomination and election.

A nomination by the Republican party was at that time nearly equivalent to an election, but Cadman did not feel safe to keep still, so he made a canvass of the three counties, telling the people of Clay and Johnson counties that if elected he would do nothing in the legislature looking to a division of the county unless he had a petition (which he felt doubtful of getting) to present, from at least two-thirds of the legal voters of the county, asking such division. The people of these counties knowing that there were not, altogether, a dozen people who would sign such a petition, he was elected.

At that time the capital was at Omaha, there were no facilities for travel as there are now, and in the winter we scarcely ever heard what was going on in the legislature until the session was over. So it was this time. Some time in March, 1865, we learned that the legislature had adjourned and one of the acts passed was an act to divide Clay county, giving the territory to Gage and Lancaster counties. The people of Clay county were thunderstruck. They had not expected such a thing. There had been no petition circulated or signed and the people were unable to conceive of such infamy and political rascality as this act revealed. It seems that the legislature had obliterated this county from the map of Nebraska at the demand of a small ring of speculators, without the consent or even knowledge of the people of the county, thus adding insult to the other wrongs consummated by this outrage.

In justice to the senators and representatives from other parts of the state, it should be stated that, in answer to our reproaches, they said that there was a petition presented properly signed and which appeared to be perfectly regular, asking them to pass such an act and they supposed that they were doing a favor to the whole people of Clay county — which proves that a forgery was committed.

The people of the county did not propose to submit to such treatment as this, but supposed that on a true representation of all the facts to the next legislature, supported by a petition of nearly the whole of the legal voters of the county, that the act would be repealed and the old county restored. Acting upon this supposition and in this belief, in the winter of 1866-1867 some of our people started out and secured the signature of very nearly every legal voter in the old county, but the work was hindered by the inclemency of the weather, by high water in the streams and by lack of facilities for traveling over the country, so that by the time the work was done and the petition was ready to send off, the legislature was adjourned and we were disappointed.

This so discouraged some that, though they most earnestly wished the old county restored, they could not be induced to take any trouble upon themselves for this purpose on the chances presented. Others never gave up their

hope of remedy or ceased their efforts to attain it.

Another effort to obtain justice was made in the winter of 1868-1869, when our petition was denied, at the demand of Lancaster and Gage county delegations. Still another effort was made in 1871, when a petition signed by over four hundred legal voters was presented by Colonel H. Rhodes, representative from Johnson county, while the measure was supported by members from other counties; but, although the justice of our cause was unquestioned, we could not offer the inducement to members for votes for our measure, that Beatrice and Lincoln could for votes against it, and they refused to grant our petition. From that time all hope seemed to have died out until the session of 1875, when another effort was made for the lost cause, but with no better success than before.

In giving a history of the county division and efforts for restoration, through a period of ten years or more, we have neglected many topics of interest, which we will now proceed to take up under separate and appropriate heads.

Education

As before stated, the cause of education in Clay county looked very discouraging in the early days. The people were poor; there was no public-school fund to draw from then and very little taxable property, the land being nearly all in the hands of Uncle Sam.

The subject was taken up by the several settlements and treated according to the means and ability of the people. The first step was to form and organize school districts. The first school districts were composed of precints of from three to five government townships, each with a township board of education whose duty it was to form sub-districts, the law not permitting the formation of a sub-district with less than ten children of school age.

There was no fund for building school houses, but the people subscribed according to their means and built log school houses, made caves or sod houses in which to teach the young idea how to shoot. Teachers' wages were low and were paid by subscription or rate bill. There were three districts laid off in Clay county in 1862 — one on the Nemaha, one on Salt creek, and one on Indian creek and the Blue river — which were organized. The one on the Nemaha was divided into three sub-districts in the course of the years, but for various reasons they did not get schools running in any of them until 1864.

The first school taught on the Nemaha was taught, in the old log school house, until lately standing near James Silvernail's, by Miss Carrie Gale, now Mrs. L. T. Griggs, of Beatrice. School cost something in those days when the expense was wholly borne by three or four in each sub-district. Since that time schools have been taught regularly in nearly all the districts, both before and since the county division.

Since 1865 and 1866 the country has settled up more rapidly than before, and schools and school houses have been multiplied accordingly, and people coming to this state now need have no fears that their children need go without instruction, as our public schools will compare favorably with those of any state.

Settlements

The settlement of this state was very slow during the war; from 1861 to 1864 a few came, mostly from Missouri, being run out by bushwackers or leaving to escape the draft. A few of these stopped in this county but most of them stayed near the Missouri river. They are nearly all gone now, some to one place and some to another. Mr. Isaac Mayo is the only one left on the Nemaha. There are a few yet on Salt creek and near Firth, of whom we may mention the Grims, Jacksons, Montgomerys and a few others. Also about this time or a little before, came from Indiana Mr. William McLane and brothers and other relatives. Further down Salt creek, Mr. Delos Mills, Mrs. Boydston, Mrs. Warner, Mr. Keyes, D. S. Brown, Fred and Carl Krul, Mr. Huskin and others. On the Nemaha, George Drown, William Curtis, H. C. Barmole, and a little later the Moore Brothers, J. H.

Lynch, George Lykes and Henry Stoops, and soon after James Sykes.

On Indian creek and the Blue, the settlers were George Grant and sons, who for some time resided at Austin, and who moved to Turkey creek about this time; and near him Robert Nicholas, James and William Plucknett, and, on Clatonia and the Blue, William Van Cleit, James Krusie, Alfred Snell, and others.

After the war the settlement was rapid, and your historian was unable to keep an account of all who came, much less to name them. For several years after the war a great many soldiers found themselves, to use a vulgar but significant expression, loose-footed, and the attractions of Nebraska as an agricultural state becoming known at the east, Nebraska received a large accession of this honored class of citizens from other states.

Through all this immediate section all the claims on the streams containing bottom land or timber, were taken up in 1866 or before, and the next year prairie claims were taken, in fact early all the homestead land in the county was taken.

One thing that delayed the settlement of the section of country about Firth was the withdrawal of large tracts of land from market by the government, for railroad purposes, but this is now seen to be an advantage to the country in keeping it out of the hands of other speculators who are still holding in Gage county large tracts, above the means of settlers.

Since 1867 the improvement of the country has been very rapid, embracing the building of towns and railroads, which properly comes under another head, to which we will now refer.

Towns and Railroads

As has been already stated, a number of towns were laid out in Clay county at an early dy, but none of them ever amounted to anything. They were generally located without reference to any natural advantages of position except, perhaps, a beautiful site for building purposes, but as such sites could be had anywhere, it was not of sufficient importance to build up a town.

There was not at that time, or for many years afterward, anything in the county to build up towns. There was no water power in the county to encourage manufacturing operations, there was but one route of travel overland through the country, viz; through the Salt creek settlement from Nebraska City to Denver, Colorado, but the travel was too light and too transient to build up the town Olatha. But the principal trouble was that here were not people or capital enough to give anything a good start.

When Clay county was divided, and for years afterward, there was absolutely no town of any kind in the county. Nebraska City was the only town that could be called a market for the people of this section until about 1868.

John Adams, on the Nemaha, used to do some blacksmithing for the neighbors. He got so that he could do a good job of almost any kind, and was always willing to oblige his neighbors. John W. Prey, of Salt creek, used also to do some blacksmith work, and mend plows and wagons for his neighbors. John Stafford, on the Nemaha, made and mended shoes and boots. George Gale used to make ropes and twine, Alfred Gale used to make baskets and John B. Shaw used to make brooms. Aside from these mechanical arts practiced at home, all business had to be done a long distance from home.

After the location of the capital at Lincoln there was a market there for some of the lighter kinds of produce, and most kinds of merchandise could be bought there nearly as cheaply as at Nebraska City, but did not afford us a market for grain or other heavy produce, from the fact that there were no railroads to get it away, and up to the time of the completion of the Midland Pacific Railroad to Lincoln, in 1871, the farmers hauled all their grain to Nebraska City, and bought all or most of their heavy goods, lumber, and building material, salt, hardware, machinery, implements, etc., there. The people of this sec-

tion never did much business at Beatrice until within a few years past.

The first town within the limits of Clay county that was of any use to the people was Bennett, on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. This town afforded a market for grain and made a fair trading point for the farmers of the northeastern section of the old county.

When the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was built, a little station and trading point was established on Cheese creek, in the northwestern part of the old county, and called Highland. Other little towns were started on the Beatrice branch of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad just outside of the limits of Clay county, and Crete, Wilber, and DeWitt are a great accommodation to many of the people of the county.

Some years previous to this, a mill was built and a town laid out in Johnson county by W. H. Mann, of Sterling, Illinois, and called Sterling, but the town never made much growth until the building of the railroad. It was and still is of great advantage to some of the people of the southeastern part of the county. None of these roads run through old Clay county except to cut across a corner of it.

In 1869 the legislature offered, as a bounty for the building of railroads in Nebraska, to give twenty thousand acres of land to any company who should, by the first of January, 1871, build and operate ten miles of first-class railroad in Nebraska. About this time a company was formed and incorporated, called the Nemaha Valley Railroad Company, for the purpose of building a railroad from Rulo to Lincoln. This company and several others commenced building railroads and built ten miles of road and claimed the bounty of twenty thousand acres of land.

The legislature being in session at that time, a board of commissioners was appointed to examine and report on the several roads claiming the bounty, and on their report the legislature, while it accepted some of them, rejected the claim of the Nemaha Valley Company on the ground that it could not be rated as a first-class railroad. About this time the company became bankrupt, the work was abandoned, and the hopes of the people were frustrated.

But is was not long that this rich valley was to languish for want of railroad facilities, for a company having the means to do the work took hold of the matter and the result was the building of the Atchison & Northern Railroad from Atchison, Kansas, to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1871-1872, thus opening up the entire valley of the Big Nemaha to the commerce of the world. Before this time this section had become pretty well settled, large farms had been opened and the want of an outlet by rail for the immense quantities of produce grown was severely felt; and when the road was completed, its benefits were immediately felt and appreciated by the people of the valley. The effects of the building of this road were to cause new farms to be opened, and old ones to be enlarged and improved, as well as the building of towns and the rise of real estate along the whole line to the distance of many miles.

Among the towns built on this road are Adams, Firth, and Hickman, all in old Clay county and consequently within the limits of this history. These towns were located and surveyed by the company.

Adams

Adams was laid out on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 27 town 6, range 8, in Gage county, in the spring of 1873, John O. Adams giving the company a half-interest in the land. William Curtis built the first house the same spring and this has been used by B. W. Anderson for a store and dwelling to the present time. After harvest of the same year Messrs. Adams and Curtis built the warehouse which is now used by R. A. Kenyon for shipping grain.

In the fall of 1874 R. A. Kenyon built and opened a store and in the fall of 1875 he enlarged his house and moved his family there, where he still keeps a store and does a good business buying grain.

The postoffice was established in 1872, with William Curtis postmaster. Mr. Burget op-

ened a blacksmith shop there in the spring of 1875. Adams is a good point for business and would do a great deal if the railroad company would improve the facilities for doing it.

Firth

Firth was laid out on the northwest quarter of section 35, town 7, range 7, in July 1872, on land belonging to the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company in Nebraska, which gave the Atchison & Northern a half-interest in the town.

The company commenced making improvements and others commenced building almost immediately. The first building aside from the company's improvements was a small house which was used as a saloon. Then followed the section house and depot, and A. Ellsworth's store, which was the first store in Firth. Then Lyman Wood's dwelling, then Lon Morgan's house and blacksmith shop, Champion's dwelling, Clement & Everest's store, Sweeney's dwelling, and Champion's warehouse. Albert Brown was the first station agent and operator for the railroad company. D. E. Champion commenced buying grain the 30th of September, 1872. Sweeney commenced a few days later and they soon bought together and continued together for about two years, when Champion concluded to retire from business and is not doing anything now except running a livery stable, a land agency, building houses to rent, selling implements and machinery, and running a hardware store.

Improvements from this time were rapid. Dwellings and business houses sprang up as if by magic. First one and then another branch of business was introduced, but these could scarcely keep pace with the wants of the country in their several lines. The Chicago Lumber Company established a lumber yard early in the year 1873. J. B. Hawley was agent, and was succeeded in 1875 by T. B. Barnes.

Dr. Feilds, the station agent, was the first physician to locate in Firth, followed by Dr. Murphy, and later by Dr. Robinson. Dr. Murphy brought on the first stock of drugs and started a drug store in the building now occupied as the postoffice. He sold out the stock to William Phillips, who took the stock to Hickman and sold out there. Murphy and Jewell had previously opened with a larger stock of drugs, oils, paints, etc., in Champion's new building, and sold out to W. H. Moore, who later ran the business in another building.

Clement & Everest opened the second store in Firth, occupying the stand on the corner of First and May streets east of Ellsworth's store, which was burned in November 1873, with a part of the stock.

Clement & Everest sold out to Bailey & Barnhouse. Bailey sold out to Barnhouse, who for a while ran the business alone, then sold out to Bailey & Flickinger.

The first hardware store in Firth was opened by the Reed Brothers, who sold out to Champion & Hoisington. In the spring of 1874 John and George Brownell opened a new store and after a number and variety of changes they were still found in the business. In 1873 L. R. Horrum started a harness shop. He ran it for a while, and was succeeded by Charlie Flickinger, and he again by Mr. Horrum.

Spellman commenced business in Firth early in 1874. Henry Golden built and kept the first hotel. Smith & Mellinghouse started the second lumber yard in 1874 but sold out and went into the grain business. Witzig Brothers started the second blacksmith shop and later Mr. William Cook the third. In 1875 Mr. Phinney put up the first and only mill in Firth, then sold out to John Brooks, who still runs it. In the spring of 1875 Clement & Davis started the first furniture store.

Firth since its location has grown very rapidly, partly from the fact that the country was well settled by an energeic and thrifty class of farmers who were greatly in need of business facilities, and partly from the fact that the business men of Firth were an enterprising set of men, who when they set out to build a town meant business. Such men of course will always win.

The buildings of Firth, both public and private, are of a better and more substantial character than are usually found in a new

town, and the known character of its people and everything about the town, its position and surroundings point to a career of prosperity in the future.

The public school house is an honor to the town, and might be pointed to with pride by the citizens of far more pretentious towns than Firth. It cost two thousand dollars. The building of such school houses is an indication of the intelligence, liberality and far-sightedness of the citizens. Mr. Beams had the honor of being the first to teach in this house.

T. S. Elsworth may be said to have been the first resident in Firth, as he was the first postmaster and merchant. Henry Golden built and kept the first hotel, D. E. Champion was the first to buy grain, Dr. Fields was the first doctor. L. N. Morgan was the first blacksmith. The first birth and the first death also occured in his family. The oldest man in Firth is Mr. Clement, aged seventy-five years. The largest man is Mr. Champion, weight four hundred pounds. The best looking is Mr. Wood, the postmaster.

Firth has so far been remarkably free from disasters or calamities. The burning of Mr. Elsworth's house is the only fire to record since the foundation of the town. The unprecedented rise of the Great Nemaha in July, 1875, did some damage to the residents of the town, as well as to the farmers along the creek. Such a flood had never been known before since the country has been settled. The water was four or five feet deep on the bottoms.

Indians

When Nebraska was first settled there were several tribes of Indians in the territory. These Indians were settled (if Indians can settle) on reservations, supported and under the care of the government agents and missionaries, and were generally supposed to be friendly to the settlers. They were not allowed to leave their reservations without a permit from their agents, but being generally peaceable they were generally permitted to hunt over the country the greater part of the time.

These tribes were the Pawnees, Otoes, and Omahas, and they were friendly to each other (although they would steal each other's ponies) and were much afraid of the Sioux, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches and Cheyennes, who roamed over the country to the north, southwest and west, and who occasionally made a raid on the reservation Indians, scalped a few and ran off their ponies. These were called wild Indians to distinguish them from the reservation Indians, who were supposed to have made some progress in civilization.

The most trouble the settlers had with these Indians was through their frightening the women and children, for they supposed that an Indian was an Indian anyway, and indeed they needed watching whenever they were around, for they would steal anything they could lay hands on, sometimes in the presence of the owners, and whenever they had been unsuccessful in hunting, they would steal cattle and hogs, or anything eatable. They would dig up seed potatoes and eat them, even after they were up and had made considerable growth. They would scarcely offer any violence to the whites unless they were nearly starved, and they were resisted in their thefts. A man could generally drive off any number of them, and women have been known to do it, but generally they were so much frightened at the sight of the Indians that they would give them anything that they demanded. The settlers on Salt creek had more trouble with them than any others in Clay county, because the Pawnees claimed that they had not had their pay for the land on that. In April, 1857, the Pawnees came on to that settlement and drove the settlers all away and they did not return to their claims until toward the spring of 1858. Again, in May, 1859, they became troublesome and stole some cattle, and the whites killed and scalped one of them and drove the rest away, but the settlers always lived in fear of them.

Soon after this the Arapahoes drove the Pawnees across the Missouri river into Iowa, where they remained some time, not daring to return. They also burned the Pawnee village on the Platte. When the Arapahoes returned,

a part of them came through the Salt creek settlement and committed some depredations, stealing stock, burning houses, etc., and tried to carry off Miss Rebecca Prey, now Mrs. Henry Stoops, but were forced to give her up after carrying her about eighty rods.

On the Nemaha, Alfred Gale's house was attacked by Otoes in June or July of the same year, when he was alone in it, forcing the door and overpowering him and a part of them holding him while the others robbed the house of every thing that was eatable, and did not leave him enough for breakfast. The attack was made in the dusk of the evening. He had just lent his revolver and had not the least thing in the house to defend himself with.

The next day they went to John Lyon's place and tried to run off his stock, but he and J. I. Shaw were breaking prairie about a mile from them and saw them driving the cattle. They started after them and saved the stock, but one cow had two arrows shot into her about eighteen inches, but she lived and was a good cow for many years.

In 1860 seven Otoes came to the house of your historian, who would not let them in but loaded his gun with buckshot and drove them away from his stock, when they went to John P. Shaw's and finding his cattle out of sight, ran them off and killed one of them.

On Indian creek and the Blue, they were very troublesome, stealing stock and robbing houses that happened to be left alone.

In July, 1861, there was a great Indian scare on the Big Blue and the Nemaha. Some way or another a story came that the Cheyennes and Sioux were coming this way, killing and burning everything they met. What the story sprung from this writer does not remember, but it created some excitement on the Nemaha. A meeting was called at John O. Adams' to consult as to what should be done, and it was decided to load up our wagons and go to the river and camp near some town until it was over, and a day was set to start.

Mr. Adams buried his blacksmith tools, and some other things that he could not take were otherwise hidden. George Gale hid his cook-stove in the brush, and some other equally foolish things were done, but before the day came to start they all, without consultation, concluded not to go and they soon found there was no occasion for alarm.

There was no more trouble with Indians in this section until the great Indian scare of August, 1864, when the Sioux broke out and killed every man and either killed or carried away every woman and child that they could get at on the Platte and little Blue, for about three hundred miles in one day, and ran off the stock and burned the ranches. Some of the ranches were well armed and defended and they escaped with only a scare.

The news of this massacre reached Beatrice and the Nemaha a day or two after it occurred, with the addition that the Indians were coming on to Beatrice, and meant to burn the towns along the Missouri river.

This news nearly made some people crazy, they loaded a few things into their wagons, gathered up their stock and started for the river. Some, nearly all, I believe, left the north branch of the Nemaha before we on the south branch heard the news. Some of these never came back on the Nemaha again. the others returned in the course of the fall.

None left the south branch at this time. In Beatrice the scare was greater than on the Nemaha. While some prepared for defense and sent out runners and scouts to find out the truth and bury those killed at the ranches, others never waited for anything, but hitched up their teams and started for the east as fast as they could go. One man drove so fast that he spoiled his team. On Salt creek all got ready to leave and some did leave and sold their land and did not return for several years, and others never came back.

Old Settlers

Here is a list of the oldest settlers of the territory belonging to old Clay county, by precincts, commencing at the northeastern corner of the county.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Bennett — Messrs. Rodencamp, Meecham, and Nobles, 1857.

Saltillo — J. L. Davison, Joseph Weeks, C. L. Bristo, all long since gone, so that Mr. Keyes is the oldest permanent settler, 1856.

Centerville — John D. Prey and sons, John W., Thomas R., William L., and James, David E., and George Prey, and J. F. Goodwin, 1856.

Highland — George Lougton, 1865.

Olive Branch — John and Robert Falkner, 1864.

Buda — H. Boone and Mr. Rieurd, 1865.

South Pass — William McLain, Frank and William Lorsh, and William Greer, 1864.

Panama — Curren Moore and James Platt, 1866.

GAGE COUNTY

Adams — John O. Adams, 1857.

Nemaha — George Sykes, 1865.

Highland — McCollum or M. Weaver, 1867.

Clatonia — William VanCleif, 1859.

Grant — George Grant and sons, 1860.

Holt — E. C. Austin, Charley Austin, Mr. Phelps, H. W. Parker 1857, now all gone, and the oldest permanent settler is not known.

Bear Creek — John Wilson, 1858.

Hooker — John Hillman, 1860.

Alfred Gale is the longest resident in Nebraska of any person on the Nemaha, and, with the exception of the Preys on Salt creek, of any in the county. He left Kenosha, Wisconsin, in September 1856, on foot, carrying a knapsack and gun, which he carried on foot all the way to Omaha and to Nebraska City, averaging thirty-three miles per day.

CHAPTER XIX

GROWTH OF BEATRICE FROM BEGINNING TO 1870

A Hard Winter — Company Assets — Pap's Cabin — Mumford's Cabin — Entry of the Townsite — Population in 1870 — Coming of the Railroads — First School House — First Bridge across the Big Blue — The Government Land Office — Improved Conditions — First United States Mail — The Stage Routes — Beatrice of the Sixties

Few of the Townsite Company remained in Beatrice during the winter of 1857-1858. The enterprise, however, could not be wholly abandoned for even a short period of time without jeopardizing the rights of the association to the land selected as a townsite; moreover, as the association had gone through the form of organizing the county, with Beatrice as the county seat, it was considered important that some, at least, of the members of the association, including the county officials, should remain on guard. Finally it was agreed that Albert Towle, one of the county commissioners, should bring his family from Nebraska City to Beatrice, and with Bennett Pike, Jefferson B. Weston, Gilbert T. Loomis, M. W. Ross, and Oliver Townsend (who had, by assignment, succeeded to the rights of his brother, Dr. Justus Townsend, in the townsite, and who had joined the company in October), occupy the company building. During the long, cold winter Ross died, his being the first death in the county. His body was buried in the old burial ground, between Indian creek and Glenover school house, which for several years constituted the cemetery for Beatrice and surrounding country.

Those who remained in Beatrice for the winter possessed only a meager supply of provisions, but it was thought to be sufficient, with what nature provided, to last through the winter. Besides it was considered that, as a trip could be made to Brownville in a week's time, there could be no danger of starvation. The autumn days were short and a winter of great severity soon set in. As the holidays approached it became evident that it would be necessary to procure a fresh supply of food for both man and beast. Loomis possessed the only team in the company and he volunteered to make a trip to Brownville, and return as soon as possible with such supplies as were thought to be necessary to last through the winter. A common purse of such funds as the small company possessed was placed in his hands, and he was directed to go beyond Brownville into Missouri, where it was thought supplies might be procured cheaper. He was detained by the severity of the weather and was unable to return to his companions for more than a month. The occupants of "Pap's Cabin" saw their stock of provisions running lower and lower, each day bringing a visible diminution in their means of subsistence. They wondered anxiously if Loomis would ever return and went so far as to even question his honesty. The seriousness of the situation is illustrated by an incident which has been handed down from that distant day.

The family of Mr. Towle occupied the east room in the cabin and what passed for an upstairs, while the young men kept bachelors' hall in the west end. The bachelors had organized a sort of coöperative association for housekeeping purposes only, by which each

took a weekly turn as cook and housekeeper. The day before Loomis returned was Sunday; the larder in the bachelors' end of the building was completely cleaned out; Mother Hubbard's cupboard was not barer. It was Pike's turn at the household duties. At the proper hour for assuming his duties, he failed to arise. When urged to proceed with the breakfast, he very logically argued that in the absence of anything to cook, breakfast was out of the question. An animated conversation ensued in which the condition of affairs was thoroughly exposed, to the enlightenment, as well as the amusement perhaps, of the occupants of the east end of the cabin. Upstairs, or more properly in the attic, the provident Mrs. Towle had suspended on nails two fair sized pieces of dried beef. A conference between her and her husband ensued, in which the relief of the famine prevailing in the west end of the cabin was agreed upon. Mr. Towle noiselessly climbed the ladder to the attic and taking one piece of the dried beef, crossed the loose floor to a point directly over the bed where Mr. Pike lay, and stealthily removing a board, dropped the beef on the breast of that gentleman, who, with ready wit, exclaimed, "Thank God, the ravens have brought us food." The arrival of Loomis removed the fear as well as the danger of starvation. It is related, however, that on account of the scarcity of meat during the latter portion of the winter, these young, college-bred bachelors did not find it beneath their dignity to search the woods for the festive raccoon, whose flesh, though eaten with relish, they never mistook for a delicacy. Spring brought complete relief, and the colonists for the first time were able to appreciate the fact that the woods, the prairies and streams about them abounded in food for both man and beast.

A number of the company returned during the spring and summer of 1858, and accessions were made from homeseekers, such as Patrick Burke, the first blacksmith, Ed. Cartwright, the noted fisherman, P. M. Favor and others. A little of the prairie on the nearby claims of members of the company was broken and planted to corn, melons and vegetables, and when the second winter came, plenty smiled on every hand.

The transition from a few covered wagons and a tent, from "Pap's Cabin" and a saw mill, in 1857, to a modern city of approximately twelve thousand inhabitants in 1918, was of course painfully slow. At first there was little at hand which by any stretch of the imagination could be regarded as valuable material for the upbuilding of a city. Supplies beyond the bare necessities of life were scarce. Brownville was the nearest trading point and between here and there lay sixty miles of prairie, practically uninhabited; the road thither was little better than a wandering trail across a prairie waste. After crossing Bear creek at a point nearly a mile north of the State Institution for Feeble Minded Youth, there was, as late as 1869 and 1870, not a single dwelling house or a place where drinking water could be obtained until Yankee creek was reached, near Crab Orchard. Settlers began to come into the county in 1858, locating usually along the streams, where wood and water could be obtained. They were mostly single men, or a husband and wife, and after spending a portion of the summer on their claims they usually returned to Missouri river towns and settlements to await the coming of spring.

At Beatrice the only tangible asset of any value possessed by the Townsite Company was the steam saw mill purchased in Omaha in May, 1857, and even this mill at first figured as a liability. At the fourth meeting of the association, on July 28, 1857, the following financial report was read:

MILL REPORT

	Dr.
Original cost of mill	$2,750.00
Freight on the same	566.50
Cost of hauling mill	548.15
Cost of truck	75.00
	Cr.
Paid on mill	500.00
Paid on freight	542.30
Paid on hauling	273.15

For some time this old steam mill was a source of worry to the members of the association, and possibly of some contention.

The chief difficulty apparently was to find some one competent to set up and run it, but by the beginning of 1858 it was in effective operation. On the 28th day of May in that year, at a meeting of the members of the association, J. B. Weston, the agent of the company having the enterprise in charge, reported that the lumber sold from the mill amounted to $383.38. "Of this sum" he says, "five dollars in specie is in the hands of the agent." Once in successful operation, the old company steam mill, which was the first manufacturing enterprise of the county, excluding the government mill on the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation, for many years supplied not only Beatrice but also a large area of the surrounding country with lumber of every kind and dimension, white oak, walnut, hackberry, cottonwood, the last, however, being the main reliance for building purposes. This mill did custom work on the toll system; that is, the party who hauled saw logs to it rarely if ever paid cash for the services of the sawyer, but gave in payment part of the lumber manufactured from his logs. This system has long since been abolished in Nebraska, either by law or custom, probably on account of its inherent temptation to dishonesty. The owner of the logs frequently delivered them at the mill in the winter, and at times when there was great congestion in the mill yard he might be compelled to wait many weeks before his turn came to have his logs made into lumber. He was without adequate means for checking the milling of his logs and was almost compelled to accept what the owner or lessee of the mill turned out to him. The settlers were rarely satisfied with what they received.

But with all its imperfections and the defects of the tolling system, the old company mill was not only a great convenience to the settlers but was also a positive asset in the settlement and development of the county. When Fordyce Roper, in 1861, erected the first flouring mill at Beatrice and placed a dam across the river by which to obtain power for his enterprise, he either purchased or leased the old steam saw mill from the townsite company and changed it to a water-driven mill. He operated it in connection with his flouring mill until 1869, when William E. Hill, of Nebraska City, opened a lumber yard at the corner of Fourth and Court streets and placed it in charge of William Survoss. This soon put an end to the old saw mill of pioneer days.

As already noted, the first building erected in Beatrice was the company house, which afterward became widely and favorably known as "Pap's Cabin." When the association adjourned in Omaha on May 21st, to meet in Beatrice, July 27, 1857, a number of the members of the association made their way to the townsite in June, and immediately began the erection of this building. It was located on what was afterward designated on the original town plat as block forty-six, a block which is now entirely owned and occupied by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company as a site for its passenger depot. In its original state the block comprised a tract of land which terminated abruptly on the north in a steep bank that ran down six or eight feet to Ella street, which was then a flat swale leading to the river. The south third of the block also lay in a wide depression, which extended on the south nearly across Court street. This depression also led to the river, narrowing to a deep channel just before it entered that stream, where the east abutment of the present Court street bridge is located. On the south bank of this channel stood the old saw mill, a trifle north of where Black Brothers' magnificent merchant mill now stands. On the west side of the block the ground fell away rapidly toward the river, but on the east it formed part of a beautiful plateau, reaching to Third street.

After Mr. Towle moved his family to Beatrice, in the autumn of 1857, this building, which had been partly completed, was donated to him as a residence and was occupied by this genial and influential citizen as a family residence, postoffice, court room, village inn, election booth, and as the general meeting place for the entire community, until 1867, when it was sold to Job Buchanan, by whom it was

eventually transferred to the Burlington Railroad Company.

The second building erected in the hamlet of Beatrice was Isma Mumford's residence and hotel building. This was located on block forty-seven, and was a story and a half, hewed-log structure, containing five or six rooms. Though suffering many modifications, this building still remains; it is just north of the Butler House and is owned and occupied by W. W. Scott as a storage building.

Beginning with 1858, a number of buildings were erected, some log, some slab and some of sawed timber. Orr Stevens had moved from the neighborhood of Austin's Mill, on Indian creek, at that time known as Stevens creek, and had settled on lot one, block forty-six. Dr. Reynolds and Oliver Townsend had a little log hut on the south side of Court street, between Third and Fourth, and near them were Patrick Burke's blacksmith shop and slab shanty where his family lived. There were also a few other rude structures of which no one now remembers the use or ownership, and no reliable record exists by which their location can be ascertained. In September, 1859, when this writer first saw Beatrice, it was a mere huddle of log and slab shanties, with scarcely an effort toward a building of any pretensions. Aside from "Pap's Cabin" and the Mumford building, the most pretentious structure was the shed that housed the steam engine at the mill. Beatrice did not contain to exceed fifty actual residents all told. The prairie came down to Fifth street and the traveled portion of Court street from there to the river was a narrow wagon track, like a country road. Court was the only street that showed signs of being regularly traveled, and this was only from Fourth street on to the ford across the river just above where the bridge is now located.

In August, 1859, the members of the townsite company, after a mighty effort, raised a thousand dollars to enable Dr. Reynolds, as mayor of the town, an office required by the federal townsite act, to enter the half-section of land comprising the original town of Beatrice, and to pay the expenses attending the surveying and platting of the townsite. On September 12, 1859, a certified copy of the plat was filed in the government land office at Brownville and the entry and purchase of the land allowed. Thereafter patent was issued to Dr. Reynolds as mayor and trustee of the townsite company, and deeds and other conveyances of the lots could then be made. As far as a mere paper townsite goes, Beatrice from that moment had existence. The growth of the town, however, was slow, though constant. The county itself, in 1860, contained but four hundred and twenty-one white inhabitants, according to the federal census of that year. Of this number probably twenty per cent. could properly be credited to Beatrice.

During the decade which closed in 1870, though still a pioneer village, Beatrice increased its population to six hundred and twenty-four inhabitants. The state of Nebraska itself had come into the Union on March 1, 1867, with a population of 123,993, and the old territorial organization had passed away. The Union Pacific Railroad was completed from Council Bluffs, Iowa, via Omaha, to the Pacific coast. This first great continental railway line traverses the entire length of Nebraska from east to west. Its construction, together with the conferring of statehood upon Nebraska, was a tremendous uplift to every interest of the state. Population flowed in, capital sought investment, towns and villages sprang into existence, institutions of learning were founded, roads established, and all those elements of progress as well as of convenience and necessity, which a high degree of civilization and refinement implies, had received a mighty impetus throughout the entire state. The construction of the Burlington system, which was ultimately to gridiron a large portion of Nebraska, was under way across the state from Omaha to Denver, via Lincoln, to be followed early in the '70s by the building of the line of railway known to the early settlers as the Atchison & Nebraska. Not only Beatrice and Gage county, but also all Nebraska east of the one hundredth meridian, was pulsing with the energy and enthusiasm which a rapidly increasing population and a tremen-

dous accession of wealth are apt to excite in a body politic at any time and under all circumstances. Before the close of 1870, steps were inaugurated for the extension of the Burlington Railroad system to Beatrice. Here it is sufficient to say that this extension, together with the other activities of the 70's here mentioned, went far toward realizing the dreams, the hopes, the visions of Kinney, McConihe, Towle, Reynolds, Weston, Pike, Townsend, Cook, and the other founders of this beautiful city of Beatrice. During this period, as if by magic, there was evolved — from the old steam saw mill, "Pap's Cabin" and the clus-

Court Street in 1870.

ter of huts and slab and board shanties that earlier comprised this unknown western hamlet on the very rim of civilization — under the name of Beatrice a beautiful and enterprising little city, destined to attain a position of great power and influence in the state and nation.

During this decade living conditions greatly improved in Beatrice and Gage county. As early as 1862, a small frame school house was erected on the block dedicated by the founders of the city to school purposes, where the Central grade-school building now stands. This building was a one story, single-room structure, sixteen by twenty feet in dimensions. It was built of cottonwood lumber donated by the townsite company and supplied from its sawmill, and the labor required for its erection was largely donated. As this was the first school building erected in the county, it was the subject of considerable comment by everybody. People came from far and near to look at it, and when school opened that fall, with Oliver Townsend as the teacher, many a man breathed a sigh of relief on reflecting that at last school privileges were in sight for his children.

By the close of 1870, the hardships of pioneer conditions were rapidly passing away. As a member of the first state legislature, in 1868, Hon. Nathan Blakely had procured the passage of an act appropriating one thousand acres of land in Gage county, the proceeds of which, when sold, were to be used in erecting a bridge across the Big Blue river at Beatrice. The lands thus donated were a part of a donation of five hundred thousand acres of land by the federal government to the state of Nebraska, out of the public domain in the state, to be used for internal improvement. Almost as soon as Mr. Blakely's bill became operative steps were taken to carry its purposes into effect.

On May 22, 1869, the county commissioners, Ticknor, Wickham, and Pettygrew, ordered an advertisement in the *Clarion*, a newspaper which was printed in Beatrice and which had just come into existence, calling for bids for the construction of a bridge at Beatrice across the Big Blue river, to consist of three stone piers twenty-four feet high, two spans, each

one hundred and thirty feet in length and sixteen feet high, to cost not less than six thousand nor more than eight thousand dollars, and to be completed by August 1, 1870. The public lands selected by the county board to be applied to the cost of erecting this bridge, were: The northeast quarter of section 15, township 2, range 6; the southwest quarter of section 1; the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 2; the northeast quarter of section 3; and the northwest quarter of section 12, all in township 4, range 6; and the north half of section 2, township 4 north, range 7 east, Gage county, Nebraska.

There were several bids for this first county bridge. Cyrus W. Wheeler for the woodwork on the bridge bid $5,000; Michael Hinneberry for the piers alone bid $3,000; J. Killian & Son for the complete work, $8,000; Curtis & Peavy, of Pawnee City, bid $7,600 on the complete structure and were awarded the contract. This bridge was located where the old Market street ford crossed the river, immediately below Black Brothers' mill. It was a high, narrow structure, with room for only one vehicle at a time, and was perched on abutments which were said to have been filled with straw and stable manure instead of cement. The first spring freshet that took the ice out of the river, carried this bridge down with the flood. But its brief existence taught the public the value of bridges in our county, and this work has gone on until now the annual bridge budget of seventy-five thousand dollars makes the Peavey & Curtis appropriation of eight thousand look extremely insignificant.

During 1870 the old part of what is now the Burwood Hotel was erected by Woodford G. McDowell and his brother, Joseph B. McDowell, and it was opened to public patronage by a grand ball, on January 1, 1871. Prior to this, however, a frame hotel building of some pretentions had been erected by George Hulburt, at the corner of Second and Market streets, on lots 2 and 3, block 67 of the original town of Beatrice, known at the time as the Hulburt House. About 1874 title was acquired to this property by the Kansas & Nebraska Stage Company, who reconstructed the building into a large hostelry and christened it the Pacific House. For many years this old building discharged the office of a public inn. The spot where it stood is now occupied by the buildings of the Sonderegger Nurseries and Seed House.

In 1868 the government land office was moved from Brownville to Beatrice and for nearly twenty years this city was the center of activity for the entire Beatrice land district. At that time a government land office was an important institution in the settlement and development of the country. People from long distances were compelled to transact their business largely with the government officials at the land office. The counties west of Gage at that time were rapidly filling with homesteaders and other classes of entrymen, farms were being opened in all the eleven counties comprising the land district, and particularly in Jefferson, Saline, Thayer, Fillmore, Nuckolls, and Clay counties. Supplies of all kinds, including farm tools, lumber, meats, groceries, dry goods, and the like, were necessary to the settlers, and Beatrice merchants and business men profited greatly by this temporary trade.

During the time that had elapsed since that July day in 1857 when Judge Kinney directed the secretary of the Beatrice Association, young, scholarly John McConihe, to call the roll of the members of the association on the townsite of Beatrice, to the close of 1870, the people of Beatrice as well as of the county at large had accustomed themselves to the inconvenience under which they rested as respected markets, trade, mails, travel, transportation and the like. The transportation of merchandise from Nebraska City and Brownville to Beatrice had become so common as to be taken as a matter of course. When wheat became a staple crop in the county, the surplus was hauled to the Missouri river, where water transportation could be had, and the farmer loaded back with lumber, salt and other freight for Beatrice merchants, who were thus enabled not only to supply their trade with better goods and in increasing quantities, but also to carry practically everything demanded by their customers.

The carrying of the mail for Beatrice and practically all of Gage county was at first a neighborhood affair. Those whose business took them to Nebraska City, Brownville or other Missouri river towns where mail was received for the settlers, brought back with them letters, papers and other mail for their neighborhood. But in 1860 a regular mail route was established between Nebraska City and Marysville, Kansas, via Beatrice. Joseph Saunders was the first mail carrier on this route. He first rode into Beatrice with the United States mail on the evening of October 3, 1860. At that time a national election of intense interest was rapidly approaching, and as Mr. Saunders rode up to the postoffice, "Pap's Cabin," he was greeted by practically the entire population of Beatrice, all eager to hear the news. The mail was carried on horseback and the carrier was frequently forced to swim the unbridged streams. But no one ever heard Joseph Saunders complain of the hardship of his task and none ever knew him to fail in the discharge of his duties. He was, in fact, a most faithful and a most efficient public servant.

In 1868 a regular stage route was established from both Nebraska City and Brownville, via Tecumseh, to Beatrice. On August 26, 1868, the *Blue Valley Record* announced that the Kansas & Nebraska Stage Line, of which Martin V. Nichols, Cyrus P. Wheeler and Cyrus H. Cotter were proprietors, was in perfect working order and made trips regularly to Nebraska City every other day; and later the public received the following announcement, in the way of an advertisement in the *Record*:

Kansas & Nebraska Stage Company, from Nebraska City, Nebraska, to Tecumseh and Beatrice, and intermediate points, carrying United States Mail, Passengers and Express Packages.

Leaves Nebraska City Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, connecting at Beatrice with a stage line to Lincoln, the Capital.

Returning, leaves Beatrice on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, connecting at Tecumseh with the stage line for Brownville and intermediate points, and at Nebraska City with the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad for all points east, north and south.

The Hulburt House, later and better known as the Pacific Hotel, was in those days the Beatrice stage station, and its genial proprietor, George W. Hulburt, was the stage company's agent at Beatrice.

But the aspiring entrepôt of southeast Nebraska was not long satisfied with a tri-weekly mail from Brownville and Nebraska City. Strenuous efforts were made early in 1869 to secure through the stage company a daily service. In the *Blue Valley Record* for February 20, 1869, voice is given to this longing in a brief editorial, which reads as follows:

The country needs a daily mail between this point and the river towns. This want, already a pressing one, is growing more so every day, and the increased amount of business which will be transacted here in the spring, and the rapid growth of the country will render it a demand of such a nature as not to be much longer resisted. The question of having it is only a question of time, how soon we shall have it is one which our citizens can in the main determine for themselves. Petitions should be gotten up and circulated along the route, and we, who are most interested, should be the first to move in it. Brownville and Nebraska City have already shown a willingness to assist in having it established, for they well know the importance of having close connections with this country and will not be wanting in efforts to accomplish it. The matter should be attended to at once. The roads are becoming good, the days longer and the trip can be easily made in a day. Let us for once lay aside old fogyism and inhale enough of the spirit of the age in which we live to show some energy in so important a matter.

This agitation was evidently successful, as the first number of Volume I of the Beatrice *Clarion*, issued on the 8th day of May, 1869, announced a daily mail over the Kansas & Nebraska Stage Line from Nebraska City and Brownville to Beatrice and intermediate points, connecting at Beatrice with the stage line to Lincoln and leaving Beatrice on its return trips every morning at seven o'clock, Sundays excepted, for Brownville and Nebraska City; and connecting at each point with the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad for eastern, northern and southern destinations.

These old advertisements act as little win-

dows through which we may see into the very heart of things as they were in those far off pioneer days, half a century ago. Through them we may behold how a little western village on the bank of the Big Blue river, in a trifle more than ten years from the date of its founding on a trackless prairie waste, in 1857, had become a center for travel and the distribution of the United States mails. Nay more, they show how effectually the pioneers of our county had learned to make the most of such advantages as their surroundings afforded.

Let us take a last glance at the Beatrice of the '60s. The county officers in 1868 and 1869, most of whom were quartered in Beatrice or near it, were: Probate judge, H. M. Reynolds; county treasurer, Albert Towle; sheriff, Luther P. Chandler; county clerk, Oliver Townsend; surveyor, A. J. Pethoud; coronor, Daniel Freeman; county commissioners, William Ticknor, Horace M. Wickham and James M. Pettygrew; while Nathan Blakely represented the county in the state legislature. Albert Towle was postmaster, and the following advertisement, undoubtedly prepared by him, correctly exhibits the mailing facilities of the community on February 20, 1869:

MAILS

Arrivals and departures of mails from the Postoffice of Beatrice, Nebraska.

Falls City to Beatrice

Arrives Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 6 P. M.
Departs Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 6 A. M.

Nebraska City and Brownville, to Beatrice

Arrives at Beatrice Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4 P. M.
Departs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at 7 A. M.

Beatrice to Marysville, Kas.

Arrives Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at 6 P. M.
Departs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 6 A. M.

Plattsmouth via Lincoln, to Beatrice

Arrives Wednesday at 12 M.
Departs same day at 1 P. M.

Beatrice to Big Sandy

Departs Wednesdays at 6 A. M.
Arrives Thursday at 8 P. M.

Albert Towle, P.M.

The government land office was located on the second floor of Joseph Saunders' brick store, on the south side of Court street, between Third and Fourth streets, in the building now occupied in part by John Pagel's grocery store. Henry M. Atkinson was the register and John L. Carson, the well known banker of Brownville, was the receiver. The office was, however, mainly under the direction of "Jack" McFarland, chief clerk of the office at that time.

A semi-annual report of Mr. Towle, as county treasurer, of the affairs of his office from April 7 to October 7, 1869, showed total receipts amounting to $9,722.00, with a balance in the treasury of $3,323.18.

The legal profession was represented in Gage county by Jefferson B. Weston, Silas B. Harrington, Nathan K. Griggs, and Hiram P. Webb. Drs. H. H. Reynolds, Levi Anthony, and C. F. Sprague were engaged in the practice of medicine. Blakely, Reynolds & Townsend; LaSelle, Buchanan & Son; and Joseph Saunders were the representatives of the general mercantile business. The druggists were George W. Hinkle and George W. Brock; the blacksmiths, Jacob Shaw and A. L. Snow; A. W. Proctor and D. Stewart carried on wagon-making shops, while J. W. Wehn, Jr., had a paint shop at Court and Second streets. Fordyce Roper owned the mill, which was advertised as the finest site on the Big Blue river, and in connection with it, he had a saw mill, a lath and shingle machine, and carried a large supply of all kinds of lumber. Mrs. M. F. Buchanan was the dressmaker and milliner of the town. Heard & Guffy supplied all kinds of cut stone for building purposes, from their Rockford quarry. Samuel Myers and Volney Rhodes were the harnessmakers. Warren E. Chesney was the proprietor of the Beatrice House, the old hotel erected by Isma Mumford in 1857. Charles F. Satler and Asher Van Buskirk made boots and shoes for the pioneers; while Artemus Baker, a cabinetmaker, supplied the demand for work in his line. William Hagy was just beginning to do a thriving business as a manufacturer of brick for building purposes.

CHAPTER XX

BEATRICE CONTINUED

Incorporation of Towns by County Board — Petition to Incorporate Beatrice — Order Incorporating Beatrice — First Board of Trustees — Incorporation of Beatrice as a City of the Second Class — First City Council — Population of Beatrice — Incorporation of Beatrice as a City of the First Class — Additions to Beatrice — Changed to Commission Government — First County Court House — Location — Old "Public Square" — Description — Cost — Abandoned — Demolished — A New Court House — Court House Bond Litigation — County Jail — The New Jail — First United States Postoffices — Present Postoffice Building — Postmasters — Beatrice City Hall — Fire Department — Lighting Plant — Sewers — Paving — City Water Works

From the date of its founding, in July, 1857, to September, 1871, Beatrice had existed as an unincorporated hamlet or village. Under the law regulating the incorporation of *towns*, the county commissioners of any county in Nebraska were empowered, and in fact required, by proper order to incorporate any town within their county whenever a majority of its taxable inhabitants should present a petition praying for its incorporation. The corporate powers of every town were by law vested in a board of trustees of five members, to be elected, after the first board, by the qualified voters residing within such town; and the county commissioners at the time they declared a town incorporated were required to appoint as trustees for the town five suitable persons, who should hold their offices until their successors were duly elected and qualified. Amongst the qualifications required by law for a town trustee was that he should be a "free, white male citizen of the United States." The law vested boards of trustees of towns with the usual powers possessed by governing bodies of municipal corporations, and contained some provisions not now met with in similar statutes.

Pursuant to the requirements of this statute, on the 9th day of September, 1871, there was filed before the board of commissioners of Gage county a petition praying that body to incorporate Beatrice as a *town* and to appoint as trustees thereof, H. M. Reynolds, J. B. McDowell, Albert Towle, William Lamb, and Job Buchanan. Many of the names attached to this petition will always be prominent in every history of Gage county. For this reason, and because the petition necessarily represented a majority of the taxable inhabitants of Beatrice at that time, the names of the signers are here given. They are:

J. B. Weston	John G. Davis, M.D.
H. W. Parker	G. H. Gale
S. C. B. Dean	C. C. Freil
N. Blakely	L. M. Korner
I. N. McConnell	J. S. S. Wallace
John McGregor, M.D.	John M. Hayes
C. G. Dorsey	William Hothan
G. W. Dorsey	Byron Bradt
W. J. Pemberton	N. K. Griggs
F. T. Clifford	Israel Blythe
Oliver M. Enlow	W. D. Knowles
J. F. King	J. Buchanan
H. A. LaSelle	James Van Buskirk

A. S. Marsh
H. P. Webb
William P. Hess
C. N. Emery
George W. Hinkle
J. Q. Thacker
J. H. Halliday
Daniel Freeman
William H. Walker
George W. Place
William Hewerkel
Blauser Brown
H. M. Reynolds
H. L. Wagner
James Charles
Peter Brauner
C. H. Cotter
Fred Wenger
Oliver Townsend
William H. Lamb
Leroy Tinkham
John Yohe
C. R. Rogers
E. H. King
H. Broughton
G. B. Reynolds
D. E. Marsh
M. W. Beam
A. L. Snow
W. A. Presson
George W. Jackson
L. Y. Coffin
G. F. Sprague, M.D.
Ford Roper
Peter Terry
A. P. Hazard
J. A. McMeans
M. L. McMeans
C. A. Pease
Orrin Stevens
Joseph Saunders
James Boyd
Artemus Baker
J. Fitch Kinney, Jr.
George L. Lamkin
M. T. Wetherald
J. L. Webb, M.D.
William Lamb
Albert Towle
S. W. Wadsworth
S. Meyers
S. W. Allen
Milton Rhodes
Paul Hailman
C. Rosenthal
Sherman P. Lester
William A. Wagner

Of these eighty-three petitioners, as far as known to this writer, all have passed to the great beyond, save G. B. Reynolds, H. A. LaSelle, William H. Walker, Byron Bradt, and George W. Hinkle, of Beatrice; A. L. Snow, of Milford, Nebraska; Sherman P. Lester and J. Fitch Kinney, Jr., of Portland, Oregon; and Samuel Meyers, of Bassett, Nebraska.

On the day the foregoing petition was presented to the commissioners — Solon M. Hazen, Horace M. Wickham, and James Pettigrew — that body, after declaring that it was fully satisfied that a majority of the taxable inhabitants of said town of Beatrice had signed the petition and that they had considered the same and were fully advised in the premises, ordered, "That the inhabitants residing upon the southeast quarter of section 33 and the southwest quarter of section 34, in township 4 north, of range 6 east of the 6th principal meridian, Gage county, Nebraska the same being the originally surveyed townsite of Beatrice, and all the legal additions which may now or may hereafter be attached to the said town of Beatrice, be and are hereby declared incorporated, a body politic and corporate by the name and style of the town of Beatrice.

"And it is further ordered that H. M. Reynolds, J. B. McDowell, Albert Towle, William Lamb and Job Buchanan be and are hereby appointed as a board of trustees of said town of Beatrice, to hold their offices until their successors are elected and qualified."

The county clerk was instructed to notify forthwith in writing, under the seal of his office, each and all of the board of trustees of their appointment as such and to transmit to them a certified copy of the order.

On the same day the trustees thus appointed held a meeting in the rear room of Hinkle & Pease's drug store, and, having taken the oath of office, as provided by the statute, entered at once upon the discharge of their duties by electing Herman M. Reynolds chairman of the board, and appointing William A. Wagner clerk, Albert Towle treasurer, and Gilson H. Gale constable for the term of the trustees and until the successor of each was elected and qualified.

On March 18, 1873, a change was effected from town to city organization by an ordinance of that date, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The town of Beatrice, in the State of Nebraska, was organized as such on the 3rd day of October, A. D. 1871, under and by virtue of the provisions of chapter 53 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Nebraska, entitled "TOWNS"; and

WHEREAS, The said town now contains more than five hundred (500) inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Said town is desirous of becoming incorporated as a city of the second class, under the provisions of the act of the legislature of the State of Nebraska, approved March 1, 1871, entitled, "An act to incorporate cities of the second class, and to define their powers," and of the amendments thereto; therefore,

Be It Ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Beatrice

That the said town be, and the same is hereby, incorporated as a city of the second class, by the name of the "City of Beatrice."

This ordinance shall be published in the Beatrice *Express*, a newspaper in said town, for two (2) weeks, successively, and to take effect and be in force from and after the 5th day of April, 1873.

At the ensuing municipal election for that year, S. C. B. Dean, a lawyer of great ability and learning, was elected mayor; E. S. Chadwick, an able young lawyer, police judge; O. A. Avery, marshal; William A. Wagner, city clerk; Samuel C. Smith, city treasurer; William Bradt, C. G. Dorsey, J. E. Hill and William Lamb councilmen, of the city of Beatrice.

At this time, the population of the city had materially increased since the census of 1870, when it stood at 624. At the time the first city council was elected, in 1873, it probably exceeded 1,500. It was growing rapidly; the census of 1880 showed a population of 2,447, and it had begun to assume the proportions and attributes of a flourishing western city.

The street shown furthest north in the accompanying birdseye view of Beatrice in 1874 is Washington, the one furthest south is Scott, while Tenth instead of Thirteenth is shown as the eastern boundary of the city. The bridge in the foreground is the Curtis & Peavey bridge, on Market street; the first location of the Burlington depot is shown where Grant street apparently terminates. Roper's mill, with the dam, is properly located above the bridge. "Pap's Cabin" appears south of the string of empty cars. The old court house appears in its proper place. West of it by a little north is the original Episcopal church building. The church, with spire, in the middle foreground is the first church building of the Presbyterians. Southwest across the block is seen the old stone Methodist church, with parsonage, and southeast is the old frame school house, on the school block. Further east by south is the first high-school building. On the south the first Sixth street bridge is seen, with winding roads from east and north, across the prairie.

In April, 1891, an act of the legislature became effective which provided for the incorporation of *cities of the first class* having less than 25,000 and more than 8,000 inhabitants, and regulating their duties, powers and government. Pursuant to this statute, Lorenzo Crounse, governor of the state of Nebraska, on the 26th day of January, 1893, issued his proclamation declaring that Beatrice from and after that date was a city of the first class. In his proclamation the Governor recites the fact that the census of 1890 showed that the city possessed a population of 13,825. It can not be doubted that the actual population of Beatrice in 1890 was far short of the number of inhabitants returned by the census enumerators, and probably less even than the minimum figure for cities of the class to which this proclamation assigned Beatrice. That census has been the subject of much just criticism, which applied not only to the cities but to the entire state of Nebraska. That it was a gross exaggeration of the facts respecting the population of the state and its cities is an admitted fact.

Since the original incorporation of the town of Beatrice, in 1871, which included only the three hundred and twenty acres of land comprising the original townsite, a great many additions have been made to the superficial area of the city, until to-day it embraces approximately thirty-two hundred acres of land. The principal additions to the city are Cropsey's Addition, Weston's Additions, Smith Brothers' Addition, Fairview Addition, Paddock's Addition, Green's Addition, Grable & Beachley's Addition, Grable & Beachley's Second and Third Additions, Yule & Son's Park Addition, and Glenover Addition — on the north and west; Lamb's Subdivision, Henry H. Lamb's Subdivision, Barney's Subdivision, and Wittenberg Addition — on the east; the town of South Beatrice and the First and Second Additions to the town of South Beatrice, Cole's Addition, Riverside Park Addition, Brumback's Additions, Belvidere Heights, and Highland Park Addition — on the south; Harrington's Subdivision, McConnell's First and Second Subdivisions, West Park Addition,

Bird's-eye View of Beatrice, 1874

Scheve's Addition, Milligan's Addition and McConnell's Addition — on the west. The city also contains numerous small subdivisions, places, and irregular tracts, which by ordinance have been incorporated into the city. These additions were largely made between the years 1885 and 1890 — a period which witnessed tremendous growth and expansion in all directions in Beatrice, as well as in the state at large.

From the date of its organization into a city, March 18, 1873, to May 1, 1912, the municipal government of Beatrice had been strictly representative in character. The first act of the first city council was to divide the city of Beatrice into three wards. The city government consisted of a mayor and of councilmen elected from each of the wards. Though modified to include four, five, and even six wards, the principal of representative municipal government was preserved, and the citizens at large, through their councilmen, had direct representation in the affairs of the city. The clerk, treasurer, police judge, and other administrative officers were elected by the people at the time the mayor and council were chosen. The chief of police, policemen, street commissioner, city attorney, and some other minor officers were appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the council. Speaking generally, this form of municipal government up to a score of years ago was universal throughout the United States, and it is still the form under which the vast majority of cities are governed, including the great metropolitan cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and St. Louis.

About the year 1900 there arose in many of the states a system of municipal government designated commission government or government by commission, which in a large measure did away wholly with the old representative form of municipal government. This heresy spread with some rapidity in the west and mid-west portions of the country. In 1911 the legislature of Nebraska passed an act providing for the commission form of government in all cities having more than 5,000 population, and at the election held in Beatrice in 1912 it was voted to abandon the representative form and adopt the new method of government. The centralizing of power in a few hands may possess some advantages as applied to civic affairs, but any form of government, municipal or otherwise, which abandons in whole or in part the representative principle, lays an ax at the roots of free institutions, and this because it is evident that if delegated powers may be given to two, three or five men, they can be conferred upon one, and a free community pass into the hands of a dictator. The weakness of commission government as applied to cities, and its unrepresentative character, must in time become manifest, and it is doubtful whether the people will long continue a system which in effect bars the active participation of the public to an appreciable extent in municipal affairs.

Toward the close of the period marked by the year 1870, it became apparent that the growing needs of the county demanded facilities for transacting public business. The county possessed neither court house nor jail.

The county offices were housed around town, wherever quarters could be had. If the incumbent of the office happened to live in the county seat, he carried his office around with him, or kept it at his dwelling or place of business. The board of county commissioners, or the county court, as that body was legally designated for many years, was compelled to hold its meetings at the residence of the member in Beatrice or the places of business at the county seat willing to accommodate them. The courts were held first at "Pap's Cabin," but when the Griggs & Webb building, on Court, between Third and Fourth streets, was erected, in the fall of 1868, the upper floor of that edifice was used for several years as a court room.

That a movement should be made in a rapidly growing town to secure a court house and jail was the natural outcome of these conditions, and on August 20, 1869, a petition was presented to the county court, or board of county commissioners, signed by H. M. Reynolds, Nathan Blakely, Orrin Stevens, and

sixty-eight other electors of the county, praying for the submission to a vote of the people at the next general election of a proposition to bond the county in the sum of ten thousand dollars, for the erection of a county court house and jail at Beatrice, the county seat.

On the 1st day of September, 1869, the county clerk was directed to include in the call for the annual election to be held October 12, 1869, the proposition for the issuance of such bonds, and the ballots at the election fairly submitted this question to the voters of the county. The canvass of the votes showed a majority in favor of issuing the bonds, and in January, 1870, the matter of erecting the court house was taken up in earnest by the county board. On the 6th day of that month, the county clerk, Oliver Townsend, was directed to advertise in the Beatrice *Clarion* for bids for the erection of both a court house and a jail, costing not less than ten thousand dollars, all bids to be accompanied by plans and specifications.

About this time the question arose as to where the new court house should be erected. The founders of Beatrice had provided for county buildings by dedicating the block bounded on the north by Ella, on the east by Ninth, on the south by Court, and on the west by Eighth street; but when it became apparent that the county commissioners were about to act in the matter of locating the county buildings, A. J. Cropsey, of Lincoln, who had been a state officer in Nebraska and who had laid out an addition on the north of the original town of Beatrice, designated and known as Cropsey's Addition, appeared upon the scene and made an offer to the county board, composed of H. M. Wickham and others, to donate block 24 of his addition to the county for court-house purposes, and the south half of block 11 for the purpose of a jail. Mr. Cropsey included also in his offer certain other inducements. The county commissioners accepted these offers and abandoned to the first comer the "public square" which the founders of Beatrice had dedicated to court-house purposes. Daniel Freeman, who was sheriff of the county in 1870-1871, quickly saw the weakness of this move and took possession of the square, fenced it and placed a couple of small dwelling houses on it. In 1873 the legislature passed an act entitled, "An Act to Quiet Title to Certain Portions of the City of Beatrice." Section 3 of the act reads as follows:

That the dedication to the county of Gage of the block known as the "public square" in the said city of Beatrice, lying between block 52 on the east, and block 51 on the west, is hereby ratified and confirmed, and the legal and equitable title thereto, in fee-simple, is hereby vested in said county of Gage, to be used as a site for public buildings, either for the said Gage county, or for the said city of Beatrice, or otherwise, as may seem proper.

In August, 1874, through the agency of a distress warrant for taxes, an effort was made by the county treasurer to dispossess Freeman. This proved abortive and in the end served to strengthen his hold on the property. (*Freeman vs. Webb et al., 27* Neb., 160.) No effort appears to have been made by the county at any time by direct suit to assert its title to this property, either under the act of dedication or the above described act of the legislature, and in process of time Freeman's possession, as the law then stood, ripened into a perfect title.

On the 19th day of August, 1870, the contract for the erection of a court house at Beatrice on block 24 of Cropsey's Addition to the city, was let to Binns & Fordham. The contract price of this structure was $11,196.01, and it was to be erected in accordance with the plans and specifications furnished by the contractors and adopted by the county board. The building was a two-story, brick structure, with stone foundation and trimmings; it was about forty feet square, with both north and south frontage, connected by a straight hallway, six feet wide, through the entire building.

The lower floor of this old court house was wholly occupied by the county offices, while the upper story was used exclusively as a district court-room, with two connected jury rooms. This floor was reached by a stairway which started from the lower hallway at the middle of the east side and led directly to the

second floor, terminating in a short hall which led westward to the district court room.

Before the work was completed the contractors suggested modifications of the plans, which they agreed to make for one thousand dollars in addition to the contract price of the building, and which were accepted by the county board. The work progressed rapidly, and on April 19, 1871, the first court house of

First Court House at Beatrice

our county was turned over to the county and formally accepted by the commissioners — James Pettigrew, Solon M. Hazen, and Horace M. Wickham. The total cost of this old building, including a vault for the county treasurer, and all extras, was $13,914.00. The grounds about the building were planted by Mr. Cropsey with cottonwood, maple and other forest trees, and for many years served to some extent the purposes of a park.

This first court house, product of the necessities of the pioneers, remained in constant use until the spring of 1887, when several of the county offices were moved to the stone building at the corner of Fourth and Court streets, then occupied by the Nebraska National Bank. The county court and the sheriff's office were later moved to the basement in the Masonic Temple building, at the corner of Sixth and Court streets, the present site of the Beatrice National Bank. In the latter part of 1889 the court house was wholly abandoned, district court being held at first in an old frame opera house at the corner of Fifth and Ella streets, where the fine two-story Kilpatrick building now stands, and later in a hall on the third floor of the Nebraska National Bank building.

No sooner had the county abandoned the property in part than A. J. Cropsey, who after a long absence from the state had returned to Lincoln, began in the United States district court at Omaha an action in ejectment against the county, to obtain possession of the court house square, alleging that the property had

been conveyed to the county for court-house purposes only, and, setting forth its abandonment by the county, charged that the title to this property had reverted to him as the grantor. After considerable evidence had been taken by deposition on both sides, the case was compromised and settled by this writer, as county attorney of Gage county, in March, 1889, by and with the approval of the county board, and a quit-claim deed taken from Cropsey and his wife for both the court house square and the half block where the county jail was located.

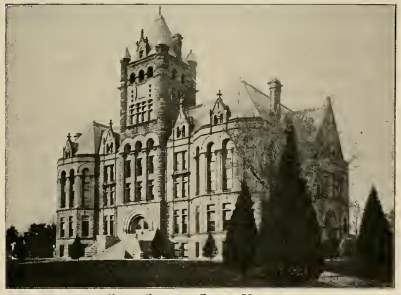
In 1889-1890, after arrangements had been made to erect the present court house, the old building was demolished and became a thing of the past. But to those whose memories cover its history this old building will never cease to possess a deep interest on account of the part it played in the early development of our county and state. Here many of the lawyers who are now practicing at the bar of Gage county, and many others who have died or moved away, gained their first experience in the trial of causes; here much of the important litigation, both civil and criminal, arising in our county was tried, including the two Marion murder trials (1883 and 1886), the Bradshaw murder trial (1883), the Reed murder trial (1883), the first Carson murder trial (1889), and many other cases of public interest and importance. Here also the county business was transacted from April 19, 1871, to April 1, 1887; here at desk and ledger toiled men, many of whose names are inseparably connected with the early history of our county. Among these names may be noted the following: Hiram P. Webb, John Ellis, J. F. King, E. J. Roderick, county treasurers; the lamented Daniel E. Marsh, William D. Cox, John E. Hill, A. J. Pethoud, and George E. Emery, county clerks; Oliver M. Enlow, John E. Hill (ex-officio), A. V. S. Saunders, and Frank H. Holt, clerks of the district court; Daniel Freeman, Leander Y. Coffin, Eugene Mack, Nathaniel Herron, and E. F. Davis, sheriffs of our county; C. A. Pease, J. W. Carter, Alfred Hazlett, Peter Shaffer, Joseph E. Cobbey, Ernest O. Kretsinger, and Oliver M. Enlow, county judges; Lucius B. Filley, J. R. Little, Matthew Weaverling, and M. D. Horham, county superintendents of public schools.

Few are living now of all those who in the days of the old court house were prominent in the affairs of our county. All of the old treasurers are gone; all of the old clerks but George E. Emery; all of the clerks of the district court except A. V. S. Saunders; all the sheriffs except Davis; and all the judges except Hazlett and Kretsinger, while not a single one of the old county superintendents is left.

All the days of the years of the old court house were great days for the citizens of Beatrice and Gage county. In those days were laid broad and deep, and for all time to come, the foundations of one of the most progressive, homogeneous and patriotic counties in the entire state of Nebraska.

In the year 1887 our county abandoned the commissioner system of county government and adopted the supervisor system, and at a meeting of the board of supervisors held in February, 1889, steps were taken for the erection of the present court house, on the site of the old, and a special election was called for May 7th of that year, in which a proposition for the issuance of the bonds of the county in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a court house at the county seat, was submitted to the voters of our county. Of the 5,059 votes cast at this election, 2,589 favored the proposition and 2,470 opposed it, leaving a clear majority for the bonds of 139 votes. Steps were about to be taken for the issuance of these bonds and the erection of the court house, when proceedings were inaugurated by citizens of Wymore to enjoin the work on the ground that the act under which the board of supervisors had proceeded in calling the election was unconstitutional and therefore the election was void, and that the county board was without jurisdiction to bond the county for the purpose of erecting a court house. In the district court, Hon. A. D. McCandless, of Wymore, represented the plaintiffs in the action — Robert Fenton, A. Perkins, John Mordhorst, Michael Keckley,

FEDERAL BUILDING.



GAGE COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

Patrick Murphy, and J. W. Bridenthal — while the writer of this history, as county attorney, represented the defendants — Thomas Yule, as chairman of the board of supervisors, and George E. Emery, as county clerk of Gage county. The cause was instituted July 8, 1889, and a temporary restraining order was granted until a hearing could be had. On July 15th a demurrer was filed to the petition, on the ground that it did not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against the defendants; and on July 17th Judge Jefferson H. Broady sustained the demurrer, dissolved the injunction and dismissed the bill at the cost of plaintiffs. The cause was then appealed to the supreme court of Nebraska, where it was advanced and came up for hearing at the opening of the September term of that tribunal. At this hearing Mr. McCandless was assisted by Judge Oliver P. Mason; and the writer, as attorney for the defendants, by G. M. Lambertson. On October 30, 1889, the case was again decided in favor of the validity of the bonds, by the court of last resort in Nebraska, (Fenton, et al. vs. Yule, et al., 27 Neb. 758), and the way opened for the erection of the new court house.

At its January, 1890, session the board of supervisors adopted the plans and specifications for the present court house, prepared and submitted to them by Gunn & Curtis, of Kansas City, Missouri, and immediately advertised for bids for its erection. On the 29th day of March, 1890, the bid of M. T. Murphy, of Omaha, for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars was accepted, upon his executing a bond, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be approved by the county board, for the faithful performance of his contract. After some vicissitudes the building was finally completed, was turned over to the county board and was accepted by that board in January, 1892.

The erection of a county jail was, after the first court house, the next most urgent public need. The administration of the criminal law was reduced to almost a farce by lack of facilities for enforcing it. Whenever it became necessary to imprison persons accused of crime, the county was compelled to rely on Nebraska City, which was the nearest point within the state where jail privileges were available. This involved not only a charge for maintenance of the prisoners while in jail, but also the cost of their transportation to Nebraska City, and back again to Beatrice every time the district court set or until the criminal charge was finally disposed of. This is well illustrated in the case of the State of Nebraska vs. Lydia Armstrong, a woman who had been bound over to the district court by a justice of the peace on a common peace warrant sworn to by her husband, W. W. Armstrong. At a session of the county board held October 23, 1869, the following bills in this case were audited, allowed and paid:

L. P. Chandler, sheriff, board of prisoner at Hulbert House	$ 4.50
A. L. Hurd, guarding prisoner 1 day	2.00
W. W. Brock, guarding prisoner 1 day	2.00
L. P. Chandler, guarding prisoner 6 days	12.00
Otoe County jail, 4 days at $4 per day	16.00
Feed for team 4 days	8.00
Board for prisoner 2 days at $1.50	3.00
Expense for prisoner at Otoe County jail	30.58
A. L. Hurd, for team for conveying prisoner from Otoe County jail to Gage County court, 4 days at $4	16.00
Feed for said team for 4 days	8.00
Board of prisoner 2 days	3.00
Guarding prisoner 6 days	12.00
Total	$117.08

Action looking toward the erection of a jail was first taken by the county board January 30, 1872, when one W. W. Watson was appointed by the commissioners to prepare plans and specifications for a jail, and the county clerk at the same time was directed to advertise in the Beatrice *Express* for proposals for the erection of a jail at Beatrice, in accordance with such plans and specifications. But on February 24, 1872, all proposals were rejected, and, on account of cost and lack of funds, the building of a jail for Gage county was indefinitely postponed, by commissioners Solon N. Hazen, Horace M. Wickham, and Elijah Filley.

But the subject was not allowed to rest.

Steps were taken by the county board to supply funds for this building, and at the regular annual election held on the 8th day of October, 1872, a proposition to bond the county in the sum of $7,000, the proceeds of which were to be used in the erection of a county jail at Beatrice, was carried by a decisive majority.

On the 9th day of January, 1873, the county clerk, William D. Cox, was again directed to advertise in the Beatrice *Express* for three consecutive weeks for bids for a county jail, all bids to be accompanied by plans and specifications, the building to consist of stone and iron, and to cost not more than $6,000 — the commissioners reserving the right to reject all bids, plans and specifications. Whether any bids, or plans and specifications were filed with the county board on the $6,000 basis is unknown to this writer, but, evidently growing weary of putting the cart before the horse, that body, on the 8th day of February, 1873, adopted plans and specifications for a county jail, prepared and submitted to them by William Anyan, a well known resident and homesteader of Elm township, a farmer, a practical builder and contractor, a politician, an Englishman of talent and ability. The county clerk was a third time directed to advertise for bids for the erection of a county jail at Beatrice, in the Beatrice *Express* for three consecutive weeks, and on March 15, 1873, the county board accepted a bid submitted to it by Andrew Miller, of this city, for the erection of a jail in conformity with the Anyan plans and specifications, for the sum of $6,400, conditioned, however, upon his executing a bond to the county in the sum of $12,800 for the faithful performance of his contract. But on March 22d following, Miller appeared before the board and confessed his inability to give a bond in sufficient sum. The contract with him was thereupon cancelled, and a readvertisement ordered for bids. On April 21, 1873, the contract for the erection of a jail in accordance with the Anyan plans and specifications was awarded to T. J. Patterson for the sum of $6,364, and at a special session of the county board held May 11, 1873, the prospective jail was, by formal order of the board, located on lots 16, 17, and 18, block 11 of Cropsey's Addition to the City of Beatrice.

Old County Jail, 1874, in Process of Demolition, 1918

This old building was constructed wholly of native stone, on the corner of Lincoln and Seventh streets. It was a single story, with basement under the part devoted to the jailer's residence. The entrance was from the south, and a hall led past the living rooms to a corridor in the rear, where prisoners were allowed to exercise; beyond the corridor were the cells.

The building was completed and turned over to the county board in the early part of 1874, and for forty-four years it served the people as a county prison. It lacked almost

every convenience for a modern jail. For years every grand jury was accustomed to condemn it as unsanitary and unsafe. In this old building all the desperate criminals of our county have been held awaiting trial, execution or removal to the penitentiary. In the old jail yard occurred the only legal execution ever had in Gage county, when Jackson Marion paid the penalty on the gallows, in March, 1886, for the brutal murder of John Cameron in 1873. Hundreds of criminals have sighed behind its iron bars, and to some it was the end of hope. If ghosts could walk and all the past be revealed, strange tales might be told of those incarcerated within its walls. In the spring of 1918, on the completion of the new jail, this old county bastile was demolished, beam by beam, bar by bar, rock by rock. The very place where it had stood so long is plowed, graded and filled, and not a trace of this sad, gloomy structure is left.

New County Jail, 1918

As early as 1916 the building of a modern jail was taken under consideration by the county supervisors, and a levy of one and one-fourth mills on the total valuation of the county was levied that year for the purpose of creating a fund to build a new jail. In 1917 also a levy was made for the same purpose, one and two one-hundredths mills, and on the 28th day of May, 1917, a contract for the erection of the new building was awarded to F. L. Robertson, as general contractor, the building to be erected pursuant to plans and specifications drawn by Richard W. Grant, of Beatrice. C. W. Werner, of Wymore, was awarded the plumbing contract, Baker-Hartzell Company, of Beatrice, the contract for electrical wiring and electrical appliances, while the Pauly Jail Building Company, of St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded the contract for cells and other equipment. The following table exhibits the total cost of the building, exclusive of grounds and grading:

Paid Richard W. Grant, Architect.	$ 1,220.00
Paid F. L. Robertson, Contractor..	14,841.36
Paid C. W. Werner, Plumbing Contractor	2,102.00
Paid Baker-Hartzell Co., Electrical Contractors	275.00
Paid The Pauly Jail Building Co...	7,700.00
Paid for extras.....	87.45
Total cost	$26,225.81

This fine, commodious jail building, which includes also a residence for the jailor or sheriff, was completed and accepted by the county board November 27, 1917. Few, if any, counties in Nebraska can boast a more handsome, complete, modern jail building than Gage, the great third county of Nebraska.

The first United States postoffice of Be-

atrice was the pioneer residence of Albert Towle, commonly called "Pap's Cabin," but in 1866 the postoffice was moved to a single room in the rear of the twenty-five-foot-front, frame hardware store owned by Rainboldt & Company, on the corner of Third and Court streets, where the building of the Blue Valley Mercantile Company (wholesale grocery) now stands. The little room containing the postoffice fronted on Third street. About 1870 Mr. Towle, the postmaster, erected a narrow frame building immediately west of Saunders' two-story brick store building on Court street. The business of the office increased so rapidly that more commodious quarters became necessary, and about 1872 the postoffice was moved to the west storeroom in the Burwood hotel, where at this writing, H. P. Claussen has his shoe store. In 1886 the office was moved from the hotel building to the east room of the old Masonic Temple Block, on the corner of Sixth and Court streets, which was destroyed by fire in 1902, and on the site of which the Beatrice National Bank building now stands. In 1887 Algernon S. Paddock was elected United States senator from Nebraska, and in 1891 he secured an appropriation from congress, in the sum of $65,000, to be used for the purchase of a site and the erection of a postoffice building in the rapidly growing city of Beatrice. Of this sum, not to exceed $15,000 was to be used in the purchase of a site for the building. The northeast corner of the intersection of Seventh and Ella streets was considered the most eligible site; one hundred twenty feet of this property was selected for the site of the new postoffice building, and in July, 1891, it was purchased at a cost to the government of $15,041.74. Thereafter the United States proceeded to erect the old part of the present postoffice building on this ground, at a cost of $49,934.37, and in October, 1893, it was occupied for postoffice purposes. The material used in this structure is from the great sandstone quarries of Warrensburg, Missouri.

The business of the office increased rapidly, and in 1911 congress appropriated the sum of $62,000 for the purpose of purchasing additional land and increasing the capacity of the office. The sum of $11,000 was paid for the eighty feet of ground adjoining the original site, and an extension, with other improvements, was added to the original building, at a cost of $49,877.50. The total cost to the government of this building, including site, is the sum of $125,853.61.

The postoffice in every community is to its members the visible sign of the power and beneficence of the government. Its importance cannot be greatly exaggerated. It forms a connecting link between the citizen and the outside world. Until recent years the postal department was the sole representative in the United States of the paternal or social idea of government. It may be that the present period of the great world war will eventuate in government-owned facilities of every description, from postal to transportation and shipping.

The patrons of the Beatrice postoffice have been fortunate in the character of the men who have occupied the important position of postmaster. Since its establishment, July 16, 1857, to the present time, the following named persons have been appointed postmasters at Beatrice, on the dates here given:

Herman M. Reynolds, July 15, 1857; Albert Towle, May 27, 1860; Jacob Drum, September 1, 1879; Samuel E. Rigg, March 18, 1886; Charles M. Rigg, November 7, 1889; George P. Marvin, September 11, 1893; Alexander Graham, January 14, 1898; William H. Edgar, January 20, 1902; Albert H. Hollingworth, February 27, 1906; John R. McCann, August 19, 1914.

Some years ago the postoffice department at Washington, pursuant to acts of congress authorizing such action, established in Gage county the system of rural mail delivery, and about the same time the system of city carriers was inaugurated for Beatrice. The rural routes radiate from the Beatrice office in every direction and are served by seven carriers, while the city of Beatrice gives employment to ten carriers of United States mail within its boundaries.

In 1896 the city of Beatrice purchased lot ten in block sixty-four of the original townsite and erected thereon a small, two-story, plain brick city hall. This structure, though undergoing various changes, modifications, and additions, is still too small for public requirements. It lacks nearly every appointment of a modern, up-to-date municipal building and is almost offensively wanting in architectural style and beauty.

It supplies a place, however, for a jail, the meetings of the city council, offices for the police magistrate, and chief of police and his subordinates, and several of the elective and appointive officers of the city. The day is not far distant when the growing city of Beatrice will demand a city building which besides affording ample room and facilities for the housing of the public records of the city and the transaction of municipal business will add to civic attractiveness.

Allied to the City Hall is the fire department, which includes four volunteer hose companies and a salaried force of firemen. This important branch of the public service had its origin with the organization of the volunteer companies June 8, 1886. From then until a comparatively recent date the nonsalaried volunteers valiantly defended against the ravages of fire the property of the citizens of our city, in a most faithful and efficient manner. Notwithstanding the fact that since the creation of the salaried fire department the volunteer companies have been relegated to the position of reserves, they have maintained their organization intact and hold themselves in readiness to respond instantly to every call for aid. At present these companies number one hundred and thirty brave and public-spirited citizens of Beatrice.

On the first day of September, 1908, the volunteer hose companies purchased the north forty-six and two-thirds feet of lots 7 and 8, block 63, Beatrice, and, at a cost of more than thirty thousand dollars, erected thereon a fine, two-story, pressed-brick fire station, which forms headquarters for all the firemen of the city.

In this building is housed the fire-fighting apparatus of the city, at the present time consisting of a motor truck, which is a combined hose and chemical engine, a horse-drawn truck of like character, hose reels, and the hook and ladder equipment.

The volunteers also, in 1907, in commemoration of their dead, erected a splendid monument, which, fronting its main entrance, overlooks beautiful Evergreen Home Cemetery.

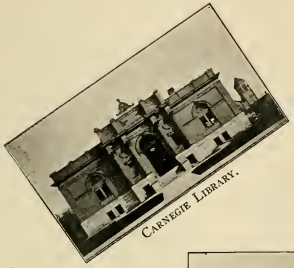
In many other ways this organization has written its own indelible record in the history of Beatrice. The fire chiefs have been Nathaniel Herron (the first leader of the brave volunteers), John Schiek, John Walker, H. L. Harper, Rudolph Woelke, John Scharton, and Henry Whiteside (the present chief).

In 1912 the authorities of the city of Beatrice installed in connection with the waterworks system a municipal lighting plant, from which the streets and city buildings are now well and beautifully illuminated. Efforts have been made to secure the application of this plant to commercial purposes, but so far the voters have failed to endorse this plan. The future may see a complete revolution of sentiment with respect to the activity of the city along commercial lines.

Beatrice is also well supplied with storm and sanitary sewers, work which had its beginning about 1886, and which has been recently extended to cover large areas of the city. Perhaps no city of its size in the west exceeds our city with respect to these public utilities.

No other improvement in the city has added so much to the beauty of the city and the comfort of living in Beatrice as the street paving. This work was inaugurated in the autumn of 1886, and was largely confined to the business districts of the city. Since 1913 the paving of the streets and alleys of Beatrice has been greatly increased and been extended to include much of the residence portion of the city east of the river. This work has gone steadily forward until at the present moment Beatrice possesses approximately sixteen miles of paved streets and is probably the best paved city of its class in the state.

The outstanding indebtedness of Beatrice on



CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

CITY WATER WORKS.

CITY HALL.

VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION.

account of the paving, exclusive of interest and the cost of paving the intersections of the streets, is $101,930, which is assessed against the property comprising the several paving districts.

In 1885 steps were taken by the city council to inaugurate a waterworks system in Beatrice. That year, on the twenty-first day of December, an ordinance was passed by the mayor and council which provided for holding a special election January 22, 1886, upon a proposition to issue bonds of the city in the sum of eighty thousand dollars, for the purpose "of constructing, operating and maintaining a system of waterworks for said city of Beatrice." At the election thus provided for, this proposition was carried by a decisive affirmative vote, and steps were at once taken to put into effect the wishes of the voters. The work went vigorously forward and before the closing of the year 1888 the city water-works were in operation.

The plan adopted was that known as the direct-pressure system, by which, through the agency of powerful force pumps, the water is elevated through main lines and service pipes to the consumer. In 1890 additional bonds were voted to cover the extension of the water mains. The water used by the consumers was taken directly from the Big Blue river, in an unfiltered and impure state. During the greater portion of the year it was utterly unfit for drinking or culinary purposes. In 1891 a serious effort was made to remedy this condition, and at a special election, held in Beatrice on the second day of September of that year, called for the purpose of voting on a proposition to issue additional bonds, the city council was authorized to issue the negotiable bonds of the city "to the amount of thirty-five thousand dollars ($35,000), for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating a system of waterworks for said city, to purchase land for the site of a water plant, and otherwise improve the waterworks system of the city of Beatrice and appurtenances, in the extension of and connection with the present system of waterworks of the said city."

At the time these bonds were voted, a series of experiments had been conducted by the water commissioner in what was then known as "Paddock's Pasture," a tract of land where the Lang canning factory and the Kilpatrick stock and storage yards are now located. From the test wells put down, the city council was led to believe that an abundance of pure water could be here obtained at a shallow depth. These bonds were issued, placed upon the market and sold for approximately their face value, and a contract for installing this plant was let to the firm of Godfrey & Means, of Fremont, Nebraska. But these contractors failed to obtain a satisfactory supply of water, though it developed that a considerable quantity of pure, wholesome water did in fact exist at that point. The money invested in this movement was wholly lost and the small brick building which was erected as a pumping station and which still occupies the small tract of ground purchased by the city, is a melancholy reminder to the tax-payers of Beatrice of this failure to secure the necessary supply of pure municipal water.

For several years after this costly experiment, the question of an adequate supply of potable water for Beatrice was suffered to rest, though it still remained an ever-present, urgent problem to every lover of his city. About 1910 the city authorities again took up the matter and a short distance east of the Paddock pasture several test wells were put down to water bearing gravel. These, it was thought, indicated the existence of pure water in sufficient quantities, if properly developed, to meet the requirements of the city. Four large wells were put down by the city, electrical pumping apparatus was installed in them, and, in 1911, a small reservoir was built, at considerable cost, on the northern boundary of the city. Water from these wells was pumped into this reservoir and conducted by gravity through mains to the pumping station of the city waterworks. It soon became apparent that the water problem of Beatrice had not been solved, the supply from this source being painfully deficient.

At the election in 1912 a change was effected from the old plan of ward representa-

tion in the city council to the commission form of government, and the new administration applied itself at once to a solution of this ever-present, perplexing problem of wholesome water for Beatrice. Finally, on the 10th day of August, 1912, the commissioners advertised in the city press for sealed proposals "for the construction of a sufficient number of wells to supply the city of Beatrice with five hundred thousand (500,000) to seven hundred and fifty thousand (750,000) gallons of water per day of twenty-four hours, also the pumps, electric motors, pipe fittings, and all other material and equipment, including all labor necessary to install same and to deliver the above amount of water into the present water mains." Bidders were to furnish their own plans and specifications and the cost of the work to the city was to be based on the number of gallons of water that the wells and equipment should be capable of pumping into the mains for twenty-four hours.

On the 20th day of August, 1912, the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, of Beatrice, submitted a "proposal for wells, pump and motors for the city of Beatrice" accompanied by plans and specifications and a blueprint illustrative of the proposed wells and their equipment. This proposal was accepted, and the company entered immediately upon the work of putting down wells in the neighborhood of the Paddock Pasture, on North Sixth street. The limitations of this volume render it inexpedient to follow the details of this movement further than to say that the company failed to develop a sufficient quantity of water from its wells to meet the requirements of its contract.

Finally it turned to the well known spring located on the farm of John H. Zimmerman, on the west side of the river, a short distance northwest of the city. The existence of this spring had been known since the first settlement of Gage county. Without development or artificial aid it sent forth a considerable stream of pure, cold water. To the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company generally, and to its president, Charles B. Dempster, particularly, belongs the entire credit of developing this fine living spring, which is now almost the sole source of the city water supply.

The history of this venture, with its result, is well set forth in a letter by the company, signed by its president, addressed to the mayor and city commissioners of Beatrice. The general statements of this letter are pertinent to the object and purpose of this history and for that reason it is here given in full. It reads as follows:

Beatrice, Neb., Aug. 6, 1913.

Hon. Mayor & City Commissioners,
Beatrice, Neb.

Gentlemen:

Without going into details with reference to our efforts to secure the city of Beatrice a sufficient supply of water, which we have been endeavoring to do since last November, we are now pleased to report that we have finally secured what we believe to be not only an ample but a lasting supply of good, pure, soft water at Zimmerman Springs, joining the city on the northwest.

We also have an option from Mr. John H. Zimmerman for the lease of these springs, together with the right of way over the land adjacent thereto, for a term of ten years, for an annual rental of $300.00 per year, with further option to purchase the springs at any time within ten years at the price of $6,000.00, together with such land as may be required, up to ten acres, at a price of $200.00 per acre. This contract or option is made direct to the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, but can be assigned by them to others. We believe this option is a valuable one to the city of Beatrice.

We further believe that we have secured and can deliver to the city over one and one-half million gallons of water every twenty-four hours, taking the Zimmerman Springs and the wells we put down north of the city together. The wells north of the city were put down under our contract with the city of Beatrice, dated August 20, 1912, with later amendments.

After having put down these four batteries of wells north of the city, you will remember that we were unable to secure the required amount of water to complete our contracts and that, by mutual consent, the contract was suspended until we had an opportunity to make a test of the supply of water at the Zimmerman Springs.

The test and purchase of the option of the Zimmerman Springs, as you well un-

derstand, were made at our expense and our risk, the city taking no chances in our ability to secure the water supply whatsoever. We stated that we would take the matter up with you again after we had made the tests.

Now, Gentlemen, we have not only made the tests, but have completed a permanent well, walling it up with a twelve-inch brick wall, laid in cement. We have been pumping the springs almost continually for two months and the amount of water pumped increased steadily from the time we began pumping until it is now capable of furnishing 1,200,000 gallons of water per day and, at the same time, leaving three to three and a half feet of water still in the bottom of the well.

The well is dug down thirty feet deep. We also drilled five holes in the bottom of the dug well an additional twenty feet. The first two of these holes we drilled increased the flow of the water in the well about fifty per cent. It is our opinion, also the opinion of Professor E. H. Barbour, Head of the Geological Survey Department of the University of Nebraska, that by blasting and taking out the rock an additional sixteen or eighteen feet, we can increase the supply of water up to at least one and a half million gallons per day.

Professor Barbour made a special trip here at our request, while we were sinking the wells. He made a careful investigation of the formations and all conditions surrounding the springs, and stated that it was the best prospect for an ample supply of water that he had seen in the state and that it was, in his opinion, a permanent supply. He was also here yesterday, making measurements and taking photographs of the flow of the water and surroundings, and was very much pleased with the amount of water we were getting.

Now, Gentlemen, we have been to a considerable expense in our endeavor to secure the city this supply of water and, at last, we have the satisfaction of being able to say to you and to the citizens of Beatrice that we have been successful and that we have secured a supply of water sufficient to take care of the city's requirements for many years to come.

We never had figured on making a profit out of securing for the city a sufficient supply of water and we are willing at this time to turn the wells and springs over to the city of Beatrice, which shall include the option for the lease or purchase of the Zimmerman Springs together with the completed well, also the wells north of the city and the pumping machinery and equipment connected with same, also the cancellation of our contract for the water supply, and all we ask in return is that we be paid just what it has cost us to secure it, charging nothing for the risk which we have taken by virtue of the fact that had we not secured the water, we stood to lose what we had spent or invested.

The total cost amounts to $15,867.26, to which we will have to add six per cent interest from August 1, 1913.

This proposition is made to the city of Beatrice, through you as their representatives, and will hold good until September 15, 1913, which we believe will give you ample time to investigate the matter and decide whether the city wants to accept the proposition or not.

Hoping that this proposition will meet with your approval and that steps may be taken at an early date to close the matter up, in order that the main may be run into the city and the people supplied with this spring water before winter sets in, we are

Yours very truly,
Dempster Mill Mfg. Co.
C. B. Dempster, Pres.

At a special election held in the city May 5, 1910, the voters of the municipality had authorized the issuance of $70,000 of the bonds of the city, the proceeds thereof to be used in constructing, maintaining and operating a system of waterworks for Beatrice. On October 10th of that year these bonds had been issued and sold, and the money realized from their sale had been applied by the city authorities in enlarging the building and plant of the waterworks, installing additional machinery, including an electric pumping plant and lighting system, and in covering the expense of the various efforts put forth by the commissioners in trying to develop a sufficient water supply by the system of wells. After the development of the Zimmerman Springs proposition as set forth in the foregoing letter of the Dempster Company, it became necessary to raise money to cover the cost of acquiring the spring and the ten-acre tract where it is situated, as set out in the letter. For this purpose the special election was held in the city on the 5th day of November, 1913, at which the issuance of $30,000 of the bonds of the city was authorized, the proceeds

thereof to be used to complete the waterworks system of the city by acquiring title to the spring and the ten-acre tract of land where it is located and of connecting it to the existing waterworks system of the city.

By these various steps Beatrice has finally acquired a supply of pure spring water sufficient, as far as tried, for the demands of the city, at a total cost of approximately $225,000 to the taxpayers of the municipality. After many years of operation at a steady loss, which was annually met by additional taxation, the Beatrice city water plant has reached a point where it is easily self-supporting.

CHAPTER XXI

BEATRICE CONTINUED

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY — FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS — CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING — FIRST LIBRARIAN — PUBLIC PARKS — THE OLD STONE CHURCH — THE NEW METHODIST CHURCH — THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH — FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH — UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH — TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH — FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH — FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH — GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH — LASALLE STREET CHURCH — SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH — FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST — FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH — MENNONITE CHURCH — BEATRICE SCHOOL DISTRICT — OLD FRAME SCHOOL HOUSE — FIRST HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING — SECOND HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING — THIRD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING — GRADE SCHOOL BUILDINGS — CITY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The public library of the city of Beatrice, which in the afflux of time has become a factor of inestimable importance in the intellectual life of the city, is the direct outgrowth of the activities of an organization known as the Beatrice Literary Club, founded about the year 1890, by Carroll G. Pearse (superintendent of the Beatrice city schools), Ossian H. Brainard, Alexander R. Dempster, Edward Sinclair Smith, Dr. Edward Bates, Leander M. Pemberton, Samuel S. Peters, Joseph E. Cobbey, Jr., Marion T. Cummings, Hugh J. Dobbs, and others. Prior to the founding of the library, the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Beatrice had for many years maintained a small circulating library in the city, this being poorly supported by voluntary contributions and paid subscriptions. It had a very limited use, on account of the small number of books of value and of the expense to patrons using it. For several years its sponsors had frequently endeavored to persuade the city to take their library and, with it as nucleus, found a municipal library suported by public tax; in this, however, they had been uniformly unsuccessful.

In the spring of 1893 the Beatrice Literary Club found itself in the possession of a considerable sum of money, the product of some very successful lecture courses given under its auspices, and resolved to undertake the service to the community of inducing the city council to acept the offer of the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, to relieve them of the burden of carrying on a library which met the demands of the community to a very limited degree, and to found a municipal library to which every citizen of Beatrice might, under proper regulations, have full and free access. As a slight inducement to favorable action on the part of the city council, the members of the Literary Club proposed to turn over to the city the money in its treasury, to be used for library purposes. The city council gave ear to the persuasive eloquence of Carroll G. Pearse, president of the Literary Club, and, after canvassing the matter, decided to act favorably upon his suggestions. The money tendered by the club was accepted, the books and library effects of the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union were taken over by the city, and, in June, 1893, the city council, formally and in the manner provided by law, established a free

public library for the citizens of Beatrice. A board of directors was thereupon appointed and for the support of the library a levy of two mills on the dollar was made upon the grand assessment roll of the city. The first board of directors was composed of the following well known citizens of the city of Beatrice: Jefferson B. Weston, three years; Cornelius Jansen, three years; Leander M. Pemberton, one year; Joseph E. Cobbey, one year; Samuel Rinaker, two years; LeRoy F. LaSelle, three years; George P. Marvin, two years; Charles G. Gilespie, one year; Hugh J. Dobbs, three years.

This board of driectors organized by choosing Jefferson B. Weston, president; Leander M. Pemberton, vice-president; and Cornelius Jansen, secretary. Mary E. Abell, who had been prominent in the affairs of the former library, was elected by the board of directors as the first librarian of the municipal library. Quarters for the new library, together with a reading room, were secured on the upper floor of the new postoffice building on its completion, in October, 1893, and the Beatrice Free Public Library was formally opened to public patronage.

In December, 1902, application was made by the library board to Andrew Carnegie for an allowance out of his millions for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for the library. The application was favorably received by the great iron master, who offered to donate to the city of Beatrice the sum of $20,000 for the erection of a library building, provided a suitable site were procured and the city council would agree to make an annual levy upon the taxable valuation of the property of the city for the purpose of supporting the library. The money to purchase the present site of the library building was raised by private subscription, and lots 5 and 6 in block 36 of the original town of Beatrice, the present site of the library, were purchased for $1,600.

George A. Burlinghof, an architect then residing at Beatrice, was selected to draft plans and specifications for the library building. Contracts were let for its construction and the work entered upon in the spring of 1903, almost exactly ten years from the date of founding the library. The work progressed rapidly. The material used was Warrensburg, Missouri, sandstone and terra cotta. While not fire-proof, the building is constructed on the principle known as slow combustion. This building, with its grounds, is now practically included in the Charles Park, and together they form perhaps the most interesting and beautiful spot in Beatrice.

On the completion of the building, Mr. Carnegie, being again appealed to, contributed $3,000 to be used in the purchase of suitable furniture, shelving and other fixtures for the library. The book stacks and furniture were bought of the American Library Association and were duly installed. On the first day of January, 1904, the Beatrice Free Public Library was opened to public patronage in its new and beautiful building.

Since its founding, the patrons of the library have been served by a number of efficient librarians, but by none more able or devoted than the first, Mary E. Abell. This good lady, who had been a citizen of Beatrice for many years, died while serving as librarian, on Saturday, April 4, 1903, and of the original library board, Weston, Cobbey, LaSelle, Marvin and Gillespie also have passed away. But the institution which they were instrumental in organizing remains and will long remain to radiate its beneficent influence throughout the beautiful city which it serves.

The public parks of Beatrice are Charles Park, Nichols Park, the Athletic Park, and the Chautauqua Park.

Charles Park is situated between Fifth and Sixth streets, immediately south of the old high-school building. It was purchased in part with a bequest in the will of James Charles, a pioneer resident of Beatrice and vicinity, the purchased lots being 1, 2, 3 and 4 in block 36 of the original town of Beatrice. To these were added lots 5 and 6, where the public library stands, and also Elk street between Fifth and Sixth streets, which was vacated by the city council for park purposes, and all that part of the school-house square

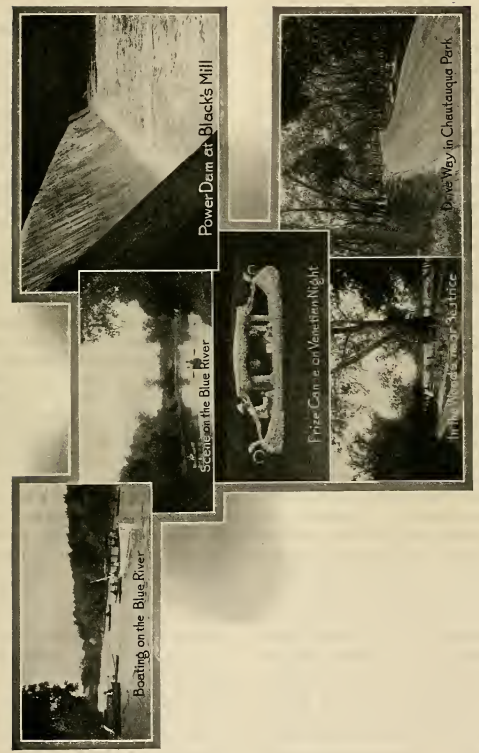
south of the walks about the old high-school building.

Nichols Park is located a little west of the Court street bridge across the Big Blue river. It is a beautiful spot, comprising about three acres of ground between Court street and the river. Most of the land forming it was donated by Martin V. Nichols, an old and highly esteemed resident of Beatrice.

The Athletic Park is an adjunct of the city school system. The founders of this play ground were the late Daniel Wolford Cook, the Kilpatrick Brothers and S. W. Collins. After its completion, it was donated and by warranty deed conveyed to the Beatrice school district, to be forever dedicated to wholesome school sport, and other scholastic and public gatherings.

The Chautauqua Park comprises about thirty acres of land, for many years known and used as Chautauqua grounds. Beginning about 1888, the Chautauqua organization, composed of several public-spirited citizens of Beatrice, annually for several years gave a Chautauqua program on these grounds. The large assembly hall and the other structures now found there were placed on the grounds by this organization. For a dozen years or more the programs given at this place were well patronized by the people of southeastern Nebraska. Many eminent men and women have here contributed to the instruction, amusement and entertainment of large audiences. Amongst these were Thomas De Witt Talmage, a noted clergyman of the past generation; ex-President Hayes; Sam Jones; Bishop Vincent; Frank Robinson, the travelouge entertainer; William J. Bryan; Frances Willard; Congressman Horr; Mary Ellen Lease; Edward Rosewater; Dr. Robert McIntyre; Susan B. Anthony; Dr. Henson, a noted Baptist clergyman, of Chicago; Robert LaFollette; and many others of wide reputation as speakers, lecturers, and entertainers.

After an interesting and profitable record covering many years, the organization, on account of the decrease in attendance, finally suspended operations in debt, and an action was brought against it in the district court of Gage county to foreclose a mortgage on its


Boating on the Blue River
Scene on the Blue River
Power Dam at Black's Mill
Prize Can e on Vacation Night
Drive Way in Chautauqua Park

property, when, by an arrangement with the board of directors, the city of Beatrice intervened, paid the indebtedness, took over the property and converted it into a beautiful city park.

An important adjunct to the public-park system of the city is the use which has recently been made of the Big Blue river as a source of recreation. While always a favored means of entertainment it has grown in favor since W. E. Garrett, in August, 1907, acquired riparian rights on the river above Black Brothers' mill dam and installed a line of pleasure boats, including flat boats for picnickers. For a number of years he has given an annual evening festival on the river locally known as "Venetian Night" which attracts large and appreciative crowds, many coming from considerable distances.

The Nehaunchee canoeing club is an organization of canoe enthusiasts whose purpose is to develop a taste for this fine sport and increase the usefulness of the river as a pleasure resort.

Nothing perhaps shows the steady growth of Beatrice from a mere village of a few hundred inhabitants to a modern city of probably 12,000 people more than its church history. No movement to erect a church building in the village was inaugurated prior to the year 1868. The Methodist Episcopal denomination had possessed organizations in Beatrice, Blue Springs and other localities in the county prior to that time. Early that year steps were taken to erect in Beatrice a church for general use. The idea seemed to be that it should be open and free to all denominations; it was in effect a citizens' movement for a free church building. The location for this structure was fixed at the corner of Fourth and Elk streets, lots 7, 8, block 20 of the original town of Beatrice, and work was begun probably in the late spring of 1868. The building planned was to be a stone edifice, approximately twenty-five by fifty feet in dimensions, with a single room,—a plain building both inside and out. The stone was hauled from the quary of Hurd & Guffey, at what is now Holmesville, and the work appears to have progressed rapidly, as things went in those days. Under date of October 28, 1868, the *Blue Valley Record* says "Our free church edifice is beginning to loom up. Carr, the contractor, is a smasher to drive business. However it is no wonder, for he has the best material in the world to use in his contract." The same paper announces also that Mr. Carr, who superintended the stone work at the capitol building at Lincoln, had located permanently in Beatrice.

As the church approached completion the plan of a free church building was abandoned and the property turned over to the Methodist church organization, which completed it and occupied it for religious services in the early part of 1869. May 17, 1870, to the trustees of the church a deed was given to lot 8, block 20, by J. W. and J. B. Mumford, and on May 23, 1871, J. B. Weston conveyed to the trustees of the church lot 7 in this block, which was afterward occupied by a parsonage. This old stone structure was the first building in Gage county erected for church purposes and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. For many years, with the parsonage, it stood at the corner of Fourth and Elk streets. Recently both lots have been purchased by the Beatrice school district and the old stone church, which had fallen into disuse, was wrecked, the parsonage moved away and the lots included in the high-school grounds. This old pioneer church building played a most interesting and useful part in the religious and social life of Beatrice for many years. In addition to the services of the church, Sunday school was held within its walls, marriages performed at its altar, the dead buried from its doors, and many a penitent found rest for a troubled heart through confession of sin and profession of faith.

The old church delighted to open its doors in hospitable welcome to religious, social and educational gatherings. The first confirmation service of the Episcopal church was held here, in April, 1871, and the first meetings of the Presbyterians were in this building, in 1869. Here the writer himself, in the unforgotten past, attended not only the religious

services of the church but also debates, lectures, educational meetings, social gatherings. When its rugged walls were taken down, stone by stone, much of the past history of Beatrice may be said to have disappeared forever.

The first Methodist minister to hold service in the church as pastor was W. A. Presson, a veteran of the Civil war. After him, not strictly in order perhaps, were Revs. J. W. Wilson, David Hart, John W. Stewart, and Wesley K. Bean.

The congregation grew rapidly from the first, and the old building became inadequate to its needs. Under the ministry of Rev. Wesley K. Bean, in 1885, steps were taken to erect a new church edifice and parsonage, and as a result of that movement the fine brick house of worship located at the corner of Sixth and Elk streets, known as the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church, was erected, and it was dedicated to the worship of God in the spring of 1886.

About the year 1906 a fine pipe organ was installed in the church, the gift of Mrs. Rachael Kilpatrick and Mrs. Margaret Constance Blakely, both pioneer residents of our county. In 1915 the church was enlarged and otherwise extensively improved. The membership of this church has grown from a mere handful in 1869 to a body of nine hundred communicants. Amongst its organizations are the Ladies' Aid Society, Epworth League, the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies and the Standard Bearers.

Amongst the ministers who have occupied the pulpit of this church and given it power and influence are Wesley K. Bean, John W. Stewart, C. S. Dudley, Duke Slavens, H. T. Davis, L. J. Guild, B. F. Thomas, N. A. Martin, Ulysses G. Brown, and Benjamin F. Gaither. The present pastor is Rev. Clyde Clay Cissell.

The First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice was organized March 12, 1859, under the auspices of the Missouri River Presbytery. The charter members in the organization were Mrs. Sarah Ann Blodgett, Mrs. Mary T. Griggs, Miss Anna Griggs, Robert H. Weeden and Mrs. Lydia Weeden. Of these Mrs. Blodgett is the only survivor. The first board of trustees comprised Henry A. LaSelle, Robert H. Weeden and R. L. Blodgett. Mr. LaSelle was also clerk and treasurer of the church. In 1869 a church edifice thirty-seven by thirty-seven feet in dimensions, brick, two stories, was erected on the southwest corner of Fifth and High streets. It was completed at a cost of about $10,000 and was dedicated as a house of public worship some time in 1870. The first minister of this pioneer church was Benjamin F. McNeil, who was also county superintendent of schools. Following him there came James A. Griffith, Thomas S. Hale, L. W. B. Shryock, W. H. McMeen, H. F. White, A. B. Irving, John W. Mills, William H. Hood, John D. Countermine, William H. Kearns, L. D. Young, N. P. Patterson, and E. C. Lucas, the present pastor. Perhaps no church in the west has been served by an abler, more learned or more devoted line of ministerial leaders. Some of them, having acquired reputation and influence in Beatrice, have been called to broader fields of labor, while the present pastor, with patriotic self-denial, will soon engage in the work of his calling in distant France, during the great world war.

In 1893 the present beautiful church and parsonage were erected, at a cost of $24,000. The membership now exceeds five hundred, the attendance at Sunday school averages two hundred and fifty. The present bench of elders are: Rev. Edgar C. Lucas, Moderator; F. B. Sheldon, clerk; E. F. Kimmerly, treasurer; Dr. W. C. Purviance, G. H. Van Horn, Charles Elliott, Paul D. Marvin, J. W. Beard, J. R. Spicer, J. E. T. Dickinson, H. A. LaSelle, and Dr. C. A. Spellman. The activities of the church are many and varied. Its societies are the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Intermediate and Junior Christian Endeavor Societies, Women's Missionary Society, Ladies' Aid Society, Delta Alpha Chapter of Westminster Guild, Life Bearers and Mission Band.

In Arpil, 1871, the first confirmation of the Episcopal church was held at the old stone

Methodist church and the general services of the church began in that year. The parish was organized and admitted to the union of the diocese in 1873. The minutes of the meeting at which the parish was organized show that S. C. B. Dean was elected senior warden and John E. Smith junior warden; vestrymen, J. W. Carter, Alfred Hazlett, and A. G. Spellman. Of the incorporators only one is now identified with the parish, Mr. John E. Smith, who in 1874 was elected senior warden and who has been annually re-elected since that time. The first record in the parish register is the baptism of Sarah Isabella Landy, August 13, 1871, by the Rev. Arthur E. Wilson.

The first rector of the parish was the Rev. Joseph F. Cotton, who continued in charge until 1876. The Rev. Robert W. Jones served as rector from 1877 to 1880, the Rev. William G. Hawkins served from 1880 to 1882 and was succeeded by Rev. C. L. Fulforth, who remained until 1885; the Rev. Robert Scott took charge of the parish at the beginning of 1886 and remained until 1891; Rev. J. O. Davis became rector that year and served until 1895; the Rev. W. P. N. J. Wharton served one year and was succeeded by the present rector, Rev. W. A. Mulligan, in 1896.

At the time of the organization, a wooden church was built on the site where the present church now stands. Prior to this the congregation worshiped in a small wooden school-house which stood on the block where the Central ward school now stands. During the rectorship of the Rev. Robert Scott, the present handsome stone church was built, at a cost of about $40,000. The corner stone was laid in 1889 and the church opened for service on Easter Day, 1890. In the year 1892 an excellent pipe organ was installed in the church, this being the first pipe organ in Beatrice. In 1904 the present commodious rectory was built, at a cost approximately of $5,000. In 1908 the parish was cleared of indebtedness, and the church was consecrated June 16th of that year. In 1916 a handsome stone chapel was built in the rear of the church edifice, at a cost of $6,000.

The organizations of the church are the Altar Guild, Daughters of the King, Junior Auxilliary, St. Mary's Auxilliary, Red Cross Auxilliary, and Women's Auxilliary.

The following are men of Christ Church parish who have enlisted in the present world war: J. Edmund C. Fisher, Philip W. Clancy, Allen B. Ellis, Robert J. Emery, Royal Green, Edward Hackstadt, Fulton Jack, Jr., Ernest D. Kees, Clarence F. Kilpatrick, Russell A. Phelps, Samuel L. Roe, Herbert T. Schaeffer, William T. Rogers, John F. Schiek, Ralph C. Scott, Frank Hobbs, Donald N. Van Arsdale, George St. Clair Preston, Harold R. Mulligan, Clifford Rockhold, John J. Kilpatrick, Allen W. Mulligan, George W. Maurer, and Harold D. Burgess

The Episcopalians have contributed to the beauty of the city of Beatrice in a memorable way by the erection of their stone church. No building in the city compares with it in architectural grace and churchly character. From the surrounding country on every hand, the white, beautiful spire of this sacred edifice forms the most impressive object in the landscape.

The First Christian Church of Beatrice, Nebraska, was organized the first Lord's Day in October, 1872. Rev. R. C. Barrow, laboring under the General Christian Missionary Convention, had visited the place at intervals prior to this date and baptized a few persons. Among the number thus brought together were Dr. H. M. Reynolds and wife and Mrs. Emily O. Snow, and these with a few others formed the nucleus of the congregation. Among these were John C. Past and wife, from Newcastle, Indiana; William Bradt and wife, from Rockford, Illinois; and John L. Rhodes and wife, from North English, Iowa. In the fall of 1872 John C. Past attended the state missionary convention, at Lincoln, to secure aid in holding a meeting and through this means effect an organization; the state board recommended that the brethren at Beatrice proceed to hold a meeting and if possible establish an organization, and the services of John W. Allen were secured to hold a protracted meeting, which was commenced at

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

METHODIST CHURCH.

once. After about two weeks a church was organized with about twenty members. They were J. C. Past, Mrs. J. C. Past, William Bradt, Mrs. William Bradt, Dr. H. M. Reynolds, Mrs. Reynolds, John L. Rhodes, Mrs. John L. Rhodes, Edwin Pheasant, Mrs. Edwin Pheasant, Mr. and Mrs. Headley, G. W. Hinkle, John Ellis, Mrs. Dr. C. C. Sprague, Mrs. Chesney, Mrs. A. L. Snow, A. W. Bradt, Mrs. A. W. Bradt, and Miss Maggie Murgatroyd. J. C. Past and William Bradt were elected elders, and Dr. H. M. Reynolds and John L. Rhodes were made deacons. The elders and deacons constituted the official board. The first meetings were held in Reynolds & Townsend's Hall, in the second story of the building at the northwest corner of Court and Fifth streets.

In 1874 a movement was started to build a church and $250 was paid for a lot at the northeast corner of Sixth and Ella streets. A church building was built, twenty-eight by forty-two feet, with an addition in the rear for vestry rooms, ten by twelve feet and a baptistry under the pulpit, at a cost of about $2,000. But the grasshoppers came and destroyed the crops before the building was completed, leaving the organization with a debt of seven or eight hundred dollars, because the people could not make good their pledges. In 1889 an addition was built on the north, thirty-two by forty-four feet, giving the building a T shape, with a seating capacity of five hundred. The same year they purchased the two lots at the east end of the block, where the present church building stands, and considered the construction of a new church on this site. In 1891 the United States government purchased, for a postoffice site, the lot on which the church stood, and this necessitated the removal of the church building to the lots at Seventh and Ella streets. A basement story was built level with the street under the entire building and the parsonage was moved to the north of the church. This was the home of the congregation until 1907, when the present beautiful edifice was erected, at a cost of $40,000.

At the present time the membership of the church is over twelve hundred. The number enrolled in the Sunday School is twelve hundred, with an average attendance of five hundred and twenty-five.

The first minister was the Rev. J. Madison Williams, now of Des Moines, Iowa. Those following him were Samuel Lowe, Joseph Lowe, William G. Springer, Eli Fisher, R. H. Ingram, J. D. Dabney, A. D. McKeever, F. A. Bright, Edgar Price, J. E. Davis, and C. F. Stevens, the present pastor, who has been here about six years.

The present official board is composed of J. L. Rhodes, honorary elder; D. W. Carre, H. E. Sackett, W. H. Davis, H. S. Souders, Henry Essam, J. L. Riecker, F. K. Klein, O. J. Lyndes, O. A. Burket, elders; and A. H. Voortman, Henry Fishbach, William Thomas, H. M. Smethers, P. J. Smethers, Henry Williamson, F. E. McCracken, E. L. Hevelone, W. W. Duncan, N. Thompson, Fordyce Graf, John Connor, D. G. McGaffey, H. S. Vaught, and J. W. Baumgartner, deacons. W. H. Davis is superintendent of the Sunday school. There are three Christian Endeavor Societies, senior, intermediate, and junior. There are also the Young Ladies' Circle, the Triangle Club, and the Ladies' Aid Society.

A society of the United Brethren church was organized December 14, 1874, with the Rev. W. H. Shepherd as minister in charge. Meetings were first held, on alternate Sundays, in the Baptist church, which stood where the Knox livery barn is now, on Market street between Fifth and Sixth streets. On the 20th day of October, 1876, a church was organized with the following named members: Elias Rhodes, Margaret Rhodes, Mrs. Eli Miller, Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Elizabeth Salts, Michael Beam, Mrs. Michael Beam, Elizabeth Meyers, Mary Reed, Mr. and Mrs. A. Q. Miller. The first board of trustees was composed of Elias Rhodes, Leander Swain, Michael Beam, and A. Q. Miller. Of the charter members Mrs. Eli Miller is the only one now residing in Beatrice. In 1875, by devise of Mrs. Elizabeth N. Joseph, of Aetna, Ohio, the church came into possession of one hundred and sixty acres of land near Be-

atrice, which they traded with William Lamb for building them a church at the southeast corner of Eighth and Ella streets. This building was enlarged in 1891 and again in 1905. The church has a membership of eighty, the Sunday school of ninety-one. The ministers who have served this congregation are W. H. Shepherd, J. H. Embree, Byron Beal, Rev. Aumiller, Robert Floyd, Rev. Landis A. Oliver, C. O. Robb, S. E. Floyd, William Burwell, Philip Surface, J. M. Haskins, E. F. Bowers, F. M. Bell, E. T. Root, J. Powers, F. M. Miller, W. F. Brink, E. A. Sharp, T. P. Cannon, W. S. Lynde, T. S. Swan, H. F. Hoffman, and S. S. Turley, the latter since February, 1918.

The Trinity Lutheran Church was organized December 9, 1883. The corner stone of the brick church belonging to this organization, at the corner of Ninth and Elk streets, was laid November 9, 1884, and the church completed and dedicated in December, 1885. It had a membership of forty-five. The ministers who have served this organization are George H. Albright, W. L. Remsburg, J. L. Motchman, W. W. Hess, J. A. Lowe, Roy M. Badger, and A. M. Reitzel. Mr. Reitzel came to the church in 1915; recently he resigned and the pastorate at this writing is vacant. The church has a membership of two hundred and fifty, and a Sunday-school enrollment of one hundred and forty, with J. H. Pletcher, superintendent.

The board of trustees of this church consists of the elders and deacons. The elders now are E. Feldkirschner, J. P. Naumann, Andrew Anderson, and T. J. Trauernicht; the deacons are F. H. Kimmerling, August Schmidt, L. K. Stevens, and C. S. Overbeck.

The first Catholic to settle in Gage county was Joseph Graff, who, in 1860, located on a claim four miles west of Beatrice. At that time the nearest priest was in Nebraska City, sixty-five miles away. Father Hoffmayer visited Gage county in 1859 and mass was offered in the log cabin of Joseph Graff, in a room sixteen by sixteen feet, and three of Mr. Graff's children were baptized. The next priest to visit Gage county was Father Ferdinand Lechleitner, who was located in Crete. He first visited Beatrice September 15, 1874, and again December 6, 1874; May 4, and June 15, 1875; May 16, 1876; May 29 and October 30, 1877. On all the above dates he held service at the residence of Joseph Graff. In July or August of 1877 Father Lechleitner presided at a meeting held at Mr. Graff's, at which it was arranged to build a church. A lot was then purchased in the block north of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific depot, on South Sixth street, and a church forty by forty-six feet was erected thereon at a cost of $1,000. It was dedicated in 1878, and this is the first Catholic church in Gage county. The members of the organization at that time were Joseph Graff, Francis Leonard, Franz Grussel, John Russell, Thomas Grace, Anna and Marie Samletzki, Joseph Meyer, Charles Hentges and wife, Frank Hiebeler, and Charles A. Graff. The church was called St. Joseph's and was attached to the Tecumseh church until 1884. Down to this time it had been served by the following named priests: Father McNally, Father Madden, Father John Crowley, and Father A. Havestadt, who held mass occasionally. In the spring of 1884 lots were purchased at the northeast corner of Sixth and High streets and the old church was moved to this location. Father A. Havestadt was the first resident priest, 1884-1886, and was followed by Father Thomas Quick, 1886-1889. The first parsonage was built in 1885. At the close of 1886 the number of families within the pale of the church was one hundred and eleven, or five hundred and ten souls. At the close of 1887 there were one hundred and sixty-six families; at the close of 1888, one hundred eighty-six families, or three hundred and eighty-seven persons over eighteen years of age and four hundred and eighty under that age. In 1888 a school room, thirty-eight by twenty-two feet, was added to the old church. In September, 1889, a home was opened for Ursuline Sisters, who had come from York, Nebraska, to take charge of the school. It was called St. Joseph's Convent. In December, 1889, Father A. J. Copellen assumed charge of the parish. In 1890

a tract of ten acres of land was purchased three miles north of the city, and this was consecrated as a Catholic burying ground. September 1, 1893, Father Copellen was succeeded by Rev. Michael Merkl. During the hard years of 1894-1895-1896-1897, membership in the church decreased fifty per cent.; the sisters gave up the school, and at the close of 1898 there were but one hundred and thirty families. Father Merkl was succeeded by Father Petrasch, who came in 1907. He proceeded to tear down the old church, and the present brick church, school house and parsonage were erected. In 1912 Father E. Boll succeeded Father Petrasch, but the latter returned for a few months in 1916, when Father Boll left. In December, 1916, Father Bickert, the present priest, took charge of the parish. There are now one hundred and seventy-five families on the church roll, and eighty-four pupils in the school, which is in charge of three Dominican Sisters, from Racine, Wisconsin. Philip Graff, Henry Lang, John Plubeck, John Scharton, Hugh Carmichael, and Arthur Woelke constitute the present board of trustees. The following organizations affiliate with the work of the church: Knights of Columbus, Society of the Altar, Sewing Circle, Ladies' Social Club, and Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality.

The First Baptist Church of Beatrice was organized December 6, 1873, and for a while it was served by Rev. J. N. Webb, the state supreintendent of Baptist churches. June 27, 1874, Rev. Thomas J. Arnold became its pastor. He was succeeded April 9, 1876, by Rev. L. P. Nason, who, in June, 1877, was succeeded by Rev. L. D. Wharton, and the latter was succeeded, November 1, 1878, by Rev. George Scott. The first church building was where the Knox livery barn now stands, on the north side of Market street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. About 1880 it was moved to the north side of Ella street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, where Kimball's laundry now stands. A few years afterward this church was moved to Grant street, between Seventh and Eighth streets. About twelve years ago the church was again moved, to Sixth street, and placed on the alley, occupying what is now the southeast corner of Charles Park. When it was decided to locate the park upon these lots the city bought the old church property and paid the Baptists $6,000 for it, and they in turn purchased the Unitarian church building, on the northwest corner of Sixth and High streets, which they have since occupied.

The charter members of the church were John Kerlin, Elizabeth Kerlin, Mary C. Kerlin, S. A. Smith, Rhoda Smith, Josiah A. Smith, T. J. Smith, and Job Buchanan, who was also first church clerk. The trustees were John Kerlin, S. A. Smith, and Job Buchanan. The deacons of the church now are Griffith Evans, R. Davis, George Sexton, Henry Fairchild, H. M. Garrett, Fred Lloyd, F. N. Crangle, C. H. Aylesworth. The board of trustees are G. W. Thomas, Walter D. Wright, Dan Crosby, Walter Andrews, Argre Fryer; the church clerk is S. R. Jamison.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Beatrice was organized in 1880, with fifteen members. It met in various halls until the erection of its church at the corner of Fifth and Bell streets. The first minister was the Rev. Lynch. The present minister, Rev. Leonard Poeverlein, has served the church continuously since 1883. The church has a membership of fifty families. Fred Damrow, Julius Harter, and Fred Paul are trustees, John Roschefski is church clerk, and F. S. Kuhl is treasurer.

The German Methodist Church, located at the northwest corner of Eighth and Scott streets, was organized in 1886, and a church was erected in 1887, at a cost of $2,000. It had a membership of twelve when organized and now has twenty-four. As pastors E. T. Treibler, G. M. Zwink, John Lauer, C. G. Meyer, Conrad Eberhart, John Mueller, and Edward Beck have served this church, Rev. Edward Beck being the present pastor and having been with the church since 1904. M. Buehler, Albert Eckel, and Henry Wipperman constitute the board of trustees.

LaSalle Street Methodist Church was organized in 1887, and its church was dedicated November 6th of that year, with Rev. H. C.

Wells, pastor in charge. There were fifty-four charter members, and the present membership is one hundred and seventy-four. Pastors, H. C. Wells, 1886-1887; James K. Maxfield, 1887-1889; James Darby, 1889-1892; T. S. Fowler, 1892-1893; H. D. Wilcox, 1893-1895; G. W. Selby, 1895-1896; J. W. Royce, 1896-1898; D. C. Phillips, 1898-1899; A. W. Coffman, 1899-1900; E. L. Barch, 1900-1903; F. W. Bean, 1903-1905; George M. Jones, 1905-1906; J. W. Lewis, 1906-1909; B. F. Hutchins, 1909-1911; J. A. Ronsley, 1911-1912; J. B. Darby, 1912-1915; Henry Bell, 1915-1916; A. L. Pratt, 1916 to the present time. The church has been rebuilt and was rededicated in June, 1914.

The Church of the Brethren merits definite consideration in this work. This branch of the Brethren church, located at the corner of Fourteenth and Grant streets, was organized in 1881, and the church was built in 1888, at a cost of $3,000. Its ministers have been J. E. Young, J. H. Mohler, L. D. Bosserman, A. D. Sollenberger, A. P. Musselman, and W. W. Blough. At the present time the deacons are Charles H. Price, E. J. Kessler, and C. J. Lichty; the trustees are C. H. Price and E. J. Kessler; the treasurer is Miss Rebecca Essam, and the clerk is E. J. Kessler. The church has a membership of ninety-five.

The following record concerning the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in the city of Beatrice, was prepared by Leonard A. Emmert:

Interest in Christian Science was first aroused in Beatrice in the fall of 1884. A lady who had been confined to her bed several months was invited by a friend to visit her in Boston, Massachusetts. While there she was induced to take Christian Science treatments, with the result that she was healed. Upon returning to her home (Beatrice) she told of the wonderful "new religion" in Boston known as Christian Science, and of its healing power. Her recovery and the story she told interested others suffering from diseases that the doctors had pronounced hopeless. Several decided to go to Boston, and in writing to Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, were informed that a student of hers just finishing metaphysical college would be in Omaha in a few weeks. As soon as this student arrived in Omaha, Mrs. Elizabeth Buswell, given up by the doctors as incurable, went to her, in May, 1885, and she was healed in a week's treatment. This was the reason for many others going. All came back healed or greatly benefited.

Within a few weeks, when it was sufficiently known that the new method of healing, called Christian Science, purported to be a practical and scientific application of the truth taught and practiced by Jesus and His disciples, a number who had been interested and benefited began meeting together in the different homes. The first public meeting was held in the Masonic Hall — First National Bank Building — Easter Sunday, 1886. A charter was granted from Boston May 15, 1886. November 24, 1888, services were moved to what was then known as Gibbs Hall and on this date the First Church of Christ, Scientist, was organized and incorporated under the laws of the state. This was the first Church of Christ, Scientist, organized west of the Missouri river.

In the winter of 1890, on account of fire, the church was obliged to move again, this time taking up quarters in the LePoidevin Block. In April of the following year (1891) it became possible to secure the Brethren church edifice, located in the 1200 block of Court street. This last move proved to be an important one for the growth of the church, for shortly after locating here every department of work advanced rapidly. At a meeting of the board of directors, held June 14, 1891, it was decided to purchase a lot at the corner of Ninth and Elk streets, for the purpose of some day erecting a building. This was successfully accomplished the following month, on July 31st. It was secured from Maggie C. Blakely for a consideration of thirteen hundred dollars.

The next important step in the march of progress was the buying of the Brethren church, in the fall of 1900. It was planned that this church building was to be moved to

the lot purchased, but in working out this program it developed that a more desirable location presented itself, which resulted in the directors disposing of their first purchase and buying a lot, fifty by one hundred and fifty feet, on the corner of Eighth and Ella streets. This was purchased from Cora M. Woolridge, September 22, 1900, consideration being eight hundred dollars.

In March, 1901, meetings were again held in the LePoidevin Block, while the church edifice was being moved to its new location. There it was remodeled, enlarged and refurnished throughout. This home was dedicated May 26, 1901, and remained unchanged, except for a few minor improvements, until September, 1916, when it again became possible to remodel and enlarge the structure. A beautiful foyer was added, and several large columns were placed at the entrance, which seems to be so characteristic of Christian Science churches. Meetings were resumed in the church edifice November 26, 1916. Services were held in the Commercial Club rooms while the work was being done.

Three authorized teachers have taught Christian Science in Beatrice. The first class taught west of Chicago was conducted in Beatrice, October 5, 1885.

The history of this church would be incomplete without mention being made of the nation-wide attention which was directed toward Beatrice in February and March, 1893, when a student and teacher of Christian Science was indicted, under the statutes of the state of Nebraska, for practicing medicine without legal authority. Quoting from one of the local papers, dated February 27, 1893, we find the following records made of the case: "The case of E. M. Buswell, who is charged with practicing medicine without legal authority, will be called up in the district court tomorrow. It is a peculiar case, perhaps unlike any that has gone before in the courts, and it will excite widespread interest." Quoting again from the same paper, dated March 5, 1893: "The great trial is over. The jury in the case of E. M. Buswell, charged with illegal practicing of medicine, which went out at eighty thirty yesterday afternoon, came in about nine o'clock in the evening with a verdict of acquittal. The defendant was thereupon discharged. The verdict is generally regarded as what might have been expected in the face of the evidence presented." This was a victory for Christian Science which was felt throughout the United States and wrote a memorable page for the growth of the church here, and for the cause.

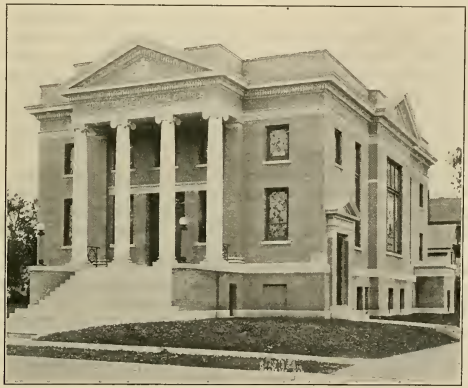
The history of this church is like that of most churches which started in the west — the record of a small beginning, a slow but sturdy progress, perseverance in the face of discouraging obstacles, defiance at times that seemed almost defeat. But what is here today is a testimonial of Courage — Faith — Hope — Love.

The Seventh Day Adventists of Beatrice held their first meeting July 7, 1894, and they organized a church in August, 1895, with twenty-two members. The meetings were held in homes of the members until the church was built, in 1897, on the northeast corner of Ella and Tenth streets. The first minister was Elder J. H. Rogers. The local elder is A. E. Putnam. George Stout is treasurer, and Mrs. A. E. Putnam is clerk.

The First Congregational Church of Beatrice was organized June 1, 1884. The charter members were J. M. and Matilda Wilber, Dr. Edward S. Bates and Jennie N. Bates, Gray Warner and Carrie L. Warner, W. B. Hotchkiss, Lewis R. Thomas, Ruth A. Thomas, H. S. Cox, A. R. Dempster, Jennie C. Dempster, Dr. Calvin Starr, Dr. Julia C. Starr, Mary Starr, L. E. Walker, Bessie Yule Walker, Henry D. Gates, Nellie W. Gates, Clara Bewick Colby. At a business meeting held July 20, 1884, steps were taken to provide the organization with a house of worship. On October 10, 1884, the church purchased, from Isaac N. McConnell, lots 1 and 2, block 6 of the original town of Beatrice, and began the erection of a commodious church building on the east seventy feet of these lots. It was pushed to completion and on Thursday, June 30, 1885, it was formally dedicated to the public worship of Almighty God as a Congrega-

tional church. From that date to about the 7th day of August, 1914, it was occupied by the Congregationalists of Beatrice as a house of worship. Prior to the 7th day of August, 1914, the church acquired by purchase lots 9, 10, 11, 12, block 29 of Cropsey's Addition to Beatrice, as a more suitable location, and on that date, by warranty deed, conveyed the old church property to the Evangelical Lutheran church, which has since owned and occupied it as their church. Long prior to that date the church had sold the west seventy feet of their property to Rev. E. S. Smith, one of its early pastors, who erected thereon a dwelling which he occupied as a parsonage during his pastorate. The property is now owned and occupied as a home by Miss Marie Upson. Following the sale of its property to the Lutherans, the church began the erection of a handsome brick structure on the lots purchased by it in Cropsey's Addition, on the corner of Sixth and Grant streets. This church was completed at a cost of approximately $20,000, and on the 4th day of June, 1916, it was, with appropriate ceremonies, dedicated to the worship of God.

The Congregational church of Beatrice has been fortunate in the character and ability of the men who have served it as pastors during the thirty-four years of its existence. Its first regular pastor was William O. Wheedon, who served from 1884 to 1886, when he was forced to resign on account of ill health. His successor, E. H. Ashman, held the pastorate from August 18, 1886 to February 1, 1888, and was succeeded by E. St. Clair Smith, February 24, 1888, who very ably served the church as its pastor to July 31, 1892, when he resigned to accept a charge in Indiana. The church thereupon extended a call to George W. Crofts, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and for twelve years this good and saintly man was not only a forceful factor in the Congregational church of Beatrice but also in the churches of the state and in the community at large. No minister of the Gospel ever exemplified in a greater degree the graces of its precepts than the poet-preacher George W. Crofts. In 1912 he passed to his reward, and all that is mortal of this beloved man lies in the cemetery at Council Bluffs. November 2, 1904, Mr. Crofts was succeeded by Edwin Booth, Jr., who continued in the pastorate until May 15, 1908, when he resigned, to take



New Congregational Church

charge of the First Congregational church at Norfolk, Nebraska, of which he is still the pastor. He was succeeded by Fred L. Hall, whose ministry terminated July 1, 1910. Rev J. W. Ferner, of Shenandoah, Iowa, was called to the service September 23, 1910, and resigned November 8, 1914, to accept a call to the First Congregational church of Aurora, Nebraska. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Victor F. Clark.

This church, though small in numbers, enters actively into the religious and social life of the community.

Gage county has had one religious immigration, and the story of that immigration is set forth in the following narrative, prepared for this work by the Hon. Peter Jansen:

"Mennonites, called after the founder of the church, Menno Simons, a former Roman Catholic priest in Holland. Principal characteristics: Baptize only adults, upon confession of faith; opposed to all war, like the Quakers; avoid law suits; members are to be strictly honest; do not make oath, but affirm.

"They are called 'Prussian Mennonites,' which is a misconception. Their ancestors came from the Netherlands (Holland) to Prussia in search of religious liberty, especially freedom from military service, which was abrogated during the early '70s of the past century, after the Franco-Prussian war (and to avoid military service were forced out of Prussia.)

"At the instigation of Cornelius Jansen and his son Peter, the latter having settled in Jefferson county in 1874, a delegation visited Nebraska during the summer of 1876, and finally selected Gage county as the most promising and suitable place for their settlement. A dozen or more families moved to Nebraska that fall and located temporarily in Beatrice, then a frontier town of a thousand or so inhabitants. By the spring of 1877 thirty to forty families had arrived and settled within a radius of ten miles of Beatrice; most of them bought farms and grass land at from six to ten dollars per acre. The names of the most prominent families were Penner, Wiebe, Reimer, Thimm, Goosen, Claussen, Janzen, etc. Others joined them during the next few years, so that eventually a large and very prosperous settlement has sprung up.

"They built a commodious meeting house a few miles west of town, and later another one in this city. Still later they bought the old Kilpatrick church, about ten miles west of Beatrice. All three meetings are under one bishop, Gerhard Penner, now eighty-two years old, living in West Beatrice.

"At the time America entered the world war they of course were subject to the selective draft, like all other citizens; however, the government recognized their conscientious scruples against bloodshed, and designated for them, as well as for the Quakers and Dunkards, noncombatant service, under the new military law, by which they can serve their country without violating their conscience."

Beatrice Schools

The Beatrice school district was the first district organized in Gage county. An unfortunate fire which, in 1902, destroyed the old Masonic Temple building, destroyed also all the previous records of the city schools, the superintendent at that time having his office in that building. The records of the county superintendent's office show that the Beatrice school district was organized May 10, 1868, and the school district is there numbered 15, but that date cannot represent the actual date of the organization of the district. About that time all the school districts in the county, some thirty in number, were put through a reorganization process, and numbered. The numbering began with the northeast corner of the county and without respect to the date on which the districts were organized, the aim apparently being to secure uniformity in numbering only.

Beatrice was the oldest community in the county and the most compact. Its founders were at the head of public affairs and they showed great aptitude in advancing the interests of the town. One of the first officers elected by the colony was the county superintendent of schools, and this office, through every change of the law was perpetuated in

some form. It is certain that Beatrice was an organized school district under the laws of the territory of Nebraska as early as 1862, when the old frame school building was erected and the first public school was taught by Oliver Townsend.

The area of the school district in those early days is a matter of conjecture. In 1858 the territorial legislature passed an act making each government township a school district, and, under this statute, what is now Midland township then constituted a single school district, with the village of Beatrice included. This statute, however, provided for the formation of sub-districts in the township, and by various subdivisions and legislative enactments the area of the original district was reduced to its present proportions. In addition to the corporation itself, Beatrice school district now embraces several tracts of farm land, some adjacent to the city and some not.

The school history of Beatrice begins with a subscription school taught by Miss Frances Butler, in 1860, in a small frame building belonging to Fordyce Roper. In 1861 Wealthy Tinkham (later Mrs. Joseph Hollingworth) also taught a subscription school in Beatrice. After the erection of the old single-room, frame school house in 1862, on the block of ground dedicated by the founders of the city to school purposes, the public school of Beatrice became a permanent institution. This pioneer school house, the first school building in Gage county, was for many years freely used for nearly every sort of gathering, and it continued to afford the chief educational facility in Gage county until the year 1870.

It first became necessary to employ two teachers for the growing village in the year 1869. That autumn and the following winter a Mr. Hodson taught the older pupils, some thirty-five in number, in the old frame school house, and Mary L. Blodgett (later Mrs. William A. Wagner) taught the primary classes in an upstairs room in an old stone structure at the corner of Fourth and Market streets, on lot 12, block 65 of the original townsite. The Beatrice *Clarion*, the second newspaper printed in Beatrice, and the immediate predecessor of the Beatrice *Express*, occupied the ground floor of the building, below the schoolroom. Miss Blodgett's school numbered fifty-six pupils, and they, with those under Mr. Hodson's instruction, comprised the school population of the entire Beatrice school district.

In 1870 a small two-story, brick school house was erected at the corner of Eighth and Ella streets, on lots 9 and 10, block 33 of the original townsite. The building originally cost about $5,000, and, as first planned, contained four schoolrooms, two on the first and two on the second floor. Later a two-story addition was built on the north, comprising two fair sized schoolrooms, and an entry was constructed on the south, from which a stairway led to the upper floor.

This was the first school building of any pretentions in Beatrice. It was both a grade and a high school and was used as such for many years. By December 1, 1870, the two ground floor rooms of this building had been so far completed as to permit their use for the opening of the winter term of school, with H. J. Chase as principal and Mary L. Blodgett as primary and intermediate teacher. All told there were about one hundred pupils in the school, nearly equally divided between the two instructors. Mr. Chase, the principal of this early school, performed a man's work as a teacher of the older pupils. There was almost no such thing as classification, but he made a serious effort to elevate the Beatrice schools to something more than an ordinary district school. The most advanced subjects taught were higher arithmetic, algebra, bookkeeping, grammar, and physical geography. The writer was a pupil of Mr. Chase, and it affords him pleasure to record his appreciation of this scholarly young teacher of that early day.

On the 5th day of January, 1878, this historian entered upon his duties as superintendent of the schools of Beatrice. At that time the old frame school house was still in use, as a primary school. In the following year another small frame school room was erected among the cottonwoods and maples at the

northeast corner of the school-house square, and this also was devoted to primary instruction. By the opening of the fall term of 1879 the schools had been as carefully graded as circumstances permitted, and a printed outline course of study placed in the hands of the teachers. The board of education then consisted of Thomas H. Harrison, president; Oliver Townsend, clerk; H. W. Parker, treasline Elwood, of Los Angeles, California. The enrollment for the school year in all departments was six hundred and eighty pupils.

This illy constructed first high-school building served its purpose until 1884, when, upon the completion of a modern, high-school building, it was demolished and every vestige of its existence effaced. The new building was erected at a cost to the Beatrice school

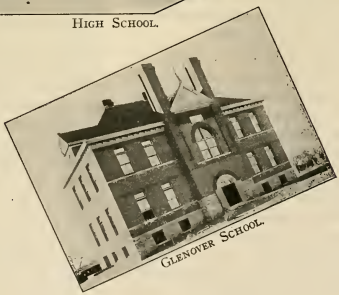
First High School Building, 1870

urer; Peter Shaffer, Benjamin Palmerton, and O. N. Wheelock. The teachers were Hugh J. Dobbs, superintendent; Fannie B. Outcalt, assistant in the high school; Henry N. Blake, head of the grammar department; and S. W. Dodge, Amelia Marston, Mary F. Price, Mary C. F. Blake, and Mirian Blake (Mrs. R. J. Kilpatrick) as the grade teachers. At the close of the spring term of 1880 the first graduating exercises of the Beatrice schools were held, the graduates being Oliver B. Gessell, Ida Lumbeck, (both deceased) and Carodistrict of $40,000, where the old frame school house had stood since 1862, and on its occupation, in the fall of 1884, it became the center of the educational system of the city of Beatrice.

When the present high-school building was erected this old building became a grade school for the central portion of the city. But no change of destiny can rob it of the simple dignity of its proportions or minimize its record of scholastic usefulness. It stands in the center of the old school-house square and dom-

WEST SCHOOL.

HIGH SCHOOL.



GLENOVER SCHOOL.

inates beautiful Charles Park, the public library and its other immediate surroundings, in a way that satisfies the mind as to what a building with its history should be.

In the year 1908 the qualified electors of the Beatrice school district, at a special election called for that purpose, voted to issue the bonds of the district in the sum of $80,000 for the purpose of erecting a high-school building, and in 1909, the present high-school building was erected, pursuant to plans and specifications prepared by architect Richard W. Grant. It stands at the corner of Fifth and Elk streets, an imposing, three-story structure with a basement. The original cost of the site, building and furniture was $81,886.00.

The remaining school buildings of the city of Beatrice are as here noted: The Harrington school building was constructed in 1885-1886, at a cost of approximately $7,500; the South school building was constructed in 1886, at a cost of $8,000 (bonds); the East school building and the West school building, built on the same plan, were constructed in 1888, at a cost of $11,000 each (bonds); the Belvidere school building, at first one room, later two, was constructed in 1889; the Fairview school building and Glenover school building, built on the same plan, were constructed in 1891, at a cost of $7,500 each (bonds); addition to the West school building, four rooms, constructed in 1916, cost $13,000.

But the marshaling of physical assets, however impressive the array, can at most indicate only the wealth and power of the community. They are not the glory of our schools. For this we must look to the character of the men and women who here have received their training for the affairs of life. Measured by this standard alone the record is most excellent. Students from the public schools of Beatrice are to be found everywhere in the world of work; they honor the professions as lawyers, physicians, preachers, teachers, and they swell the ranks of those who, in the great world war, are fighting for human liberty.

The heads of the Beatrice city schools, beginning with Hodson in 1869, are H. J. Chase, Charles B. Palmer, John Ellis, John N. Fuller, H. L. Wagner, Mrs. Clara B. Colby, John N. Rhodes, Hugh J. Dobbs, L. B. Shryock, William H. Elbright, Carroll G. Pearse, J. W. Dinsmore, W. H. Beeler, Ossian H. Brainard, W. L. Stephens, C. A. Fulmer, E. J. Bodwell, and A. J. Stoddart.

Some of the men who have brought renown to the Beatrice public schools because they were at one time connected therewith are as follows: Carroll G. Pearse, superintendent back in the '80s and early '90s, has since been superintendent of schools in Omaha and Milwaukee, is now president of the Milwaukee Normal school, and is considered one of the few foremost educators of America. W. L. Stephens, superintendent of schools in the '90s, has since been superintendent of the city schools at Lincoln, and is at present in a similar position at Long Beach, California. J. W. Crabtree, one-time principal of the Beatrice high school, has since passed from normal-school presidencies to the highest position in the National Educational Association, and as its secretary wields an influence undoubtedly greater than any other educator in America. In later years, C. A. Fulmer, for five years, and E. J. Bodwell, for nine years superintendent, have placed the schools at the top in the state of Nebraska. A. J. Stoddart is now superintendent, and the future will undoubtedly see the present standard maintained. In addition to these, Beatrice has enjoyed the services of many distinguished men and women who have gone far and wide through other fields. No chronicle of the Beatrice schools would be complete without mentioning Miss Juletta O. Rawles, who has been assistant principal of the high school during a period of time of such duration that the community will long know and feel the good effects of her fine personality.

Through the years old residents have seen the number of teachers grow from a small nucleus of two or three until we now have twenty-two in the high school and forty-eight

in the grades; and the school enrollment grow from a few pupils in one or two rooms until last year we had 1109 boys and 1124 girls enrolled in the schools. The high school ranks third in size in the state, having now an enrollment of 490. The physical plant has grown from one little building of one room until we now have eight ward buildings and one big central high-school building. In addition to this, through the public-spiritedness of some of the citizens of Beatrice, we have the finest athletic park in the west.

CHAPTER XXII

BEATRICE CONCLUDED

BANKS — FACTORIES — WHOLESALE HOUSES — RAWLINS POST — HOSPITALS AND SANITARIUMS — NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER MEN.

For many years after the settlement and organization of our county the pioneers were wholly dependent upon foreign banking institutions in all business transactions requiring the intervention of a bank. One of the six "wild-cat" banks established in Nebraska territory in 1856, by legislative charter, was the Platte Valley Bank, at Nebraska City. It was organized with S. F. Nuckolls as president and Joshua Garside as cashier. On account of the high character of these men, this bank secured a good patronage, and it was the only territorial bank of the "wild-cat" type that survived the terrible financial panic of 1857. In 1859 it liquidated its obligations and was succeeded at Nebraska City by the private banking house of James Sweet & Company, which was organized September 19, 1859. The honorable record as bankers established by the Platte Valley Bank under Mr. Nuckolls' management, together with the confidence inspired by James Sweet and those associated with him in his private banking enterprise, drew to Nebraska City a great volume of banking business from many of the South Platte counties, including Gage. Through the coöperation of the pioneer merchants of Beatrice with these banking concerns, a regular banking business of a sort was established for Beatrice and vicinity. The process was in the main as follows: A citizen wishing to borrow a sum of money would go to Joseph Saunders or to Blakely, Reynolds & Townsend or to some other Beatrice merchant, offer his security, make his note at twelve per cent. annual interest, payable in advance, and secure the money. The lender, by endorsing the note or guaranteeing its payment, could turn it in at his correspondent bank at Nebraska City and take credit for it.

But with the coming of the railroads, in 1872, all this was completely changed. To every property-owner in the county the advent of the iron horse was equivalent to unclaimed treasure-trove. That which before had possessed no market value, became marketable. Land advanced almost over night from a nominal sum to five dollars or more per acre, and found purchasers. Business quickly adjusted itself to new conditions. Grain and live stock and other products of the farm found a ready market at reasonable figures. In fact the coming of the railroads ended the pioneer days in Gage county.

In 1871 Nathan Kirk Griggs and Hiram Peter Webb began a banking business in a small way, as private bankers, in the two-story, brick building erected by them on lot 10, block 47 of the original town of Beatrice, described as No. 314 Court street. Neither member of the firm possessed sufficient capital for any but the most meager banking operations, but they did have the most desirable of all wealth, — youth, enthusiasm, self-confidence and, to a very remarkable degree, the confidence of the community, — a confidence which both well deserved. Both were well educated, both lawyers without briefs, both with character and abilities which promised much for the future. At the election in November, 1869, Webb was elected treasurer of Gage county, and by successive elections he

held the office from January, 1870, to January, 1876. There were then no restrictions upon the use of the funds of the county by the treasurer, nor was he required to account for interest on such funds. Many a pioneer bank in Nebraska had its inception with the election of the county treasurer. The bank was known as the Griggs & Webb Bank and it did a large business for those crude days; it was successfully managed by Webb until 1878. In 1874 they built a two-story, stone bank building at the corner of Fifth and Court streets, and transferred the bank to this building. In 1876 Mr. Griggs, who had by that time become a prominent and successful lawyer and politician, was appointed United States consul to Chemnitz, Saxony, and on accepting this office he withdrew from the bank. Webb retired from the county treasury in January, 1876, and thereafter devoted his time exclusively to the affairs of the bank, which then became known as H. P. Webb & Company, he having associated with him in the bank Nathan Blakely and Silas P. Wheeler. Had he confined his activities to legitimate banking he no doubt would have built up a very strong institution. He was a genial, clever, accommodating man, much esteemed in the community, and drew about him a host of the warmest of friends. In an evil moment, he formed a copartnership with a man named Holt, bought both the Beatrice and DeWitt mills, and with him engaged in the milling and grain business at DeWitt and Beatrice, using the funds of his bank to finance these transactions. He was cruelly deceived and cheated by Holt, and both mills were finally destroyed by fire. The banking house of H. P. Webb & Company closed its doors in May, 1878, its assets passed into the hands of W. H. Ashby, as assignee, and Gage county's first banker, Hiram Webb, having lost what in those days was a fortune and the opportunity of great success in the banking world, broken in spirit while still a young man, left Gage county and went to Oregon, where, being deeply religious, he engaged in works of piety, and died many years ago, far from his friends. The annals of Gage county present no more pathetic ending of what might have been a brilliant and a useful life.

Following the failure of the Webb banking concern, William Lamb, having acquired the old Webb banking house, August 1, 1879, organized a private bank bearing his name. In 1881 the Lamb banking establishment was purchased by Erastus E. Brown, of Lincoln, and reorganized June 14, 1881, as the Gage County Bank; capital $50,000, with Brown, president, Lamb, manager, and Oliver M. Enlow, cashier and attorney. In 1884 the stock of this bank was purchased by Daniel W. Cook, Jefferson B. Weston, Nathan H. Harwood and their associates, and it was then reorganzied, as the Beatrice National Bank, with a capital of $50,000. President, Jefferson B. Weston; vice-president, Daniel W. Cook; cashier, C. M. Brown. The bank continued in business in the old two-story, stone building at Fifth and Court streets until December 10, 1892, when its directorate having acquired the bulk of the stock in the old Masonic Temple Building Company moved the bank to that building, on the corner of Sixth and Court streets, which had been remodeled for banking purposes. This building was destroyed by fire December 22, 1902, entailing a complete loss of the bank furniture and fixtures. The vaults and safes, however, afforded perfect protection to the books, records and funds of the bank, and at the usual hour on the morning of the 23d of December it opened for business in the old Nebraska National Bank building, secured for that purpose while its own was in flames.

Steps were immediately taken by the officers and directors of the bank to erect a modern bank building on the spot where the old Masonic Temple building had stood. This work was begun as soon as the debris of the old structure was cold, and it was pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. Almost a year was consumed in the erection of this building, and it was not till the morning of December 14, 1903, that the doors of the new building swung open to the patrons of the bank, and a new chapter was begun in its long career of usefulness and prosperity. Supplemental

data concerning this institution appear in the memoir dedicated to Daniel W. Cook, in the biographical department of this history.

In August, 1872, John E. and Samuel C. Smith came to Beatrice and on the first day of September following they opened a private bank at No. 409 Court street, in the building now occupied by Cullen & Lock as a cigar store. The brothers possessed a capital of $10,000, and the bank was known as Smith Brothers' Bank, of which John E. Smith was president and Samuel C. Smith, cashier. Both brothers were natives of Ridgefield, Connecticut; John E., the elder, was born August 6, 1842, and Samuel C. was born June 18, 1846. They were at an age when, if ever, enthusiam and ambition have assumed full sway and they entered into the business life of our county with a vigor that was most inspiring to all who fell under their influence. They brought to their business as bankers the powerful support of a number of moneyed men both in Ridgefield and in Cambridge, New York, where the elder brother had served an apprenticeship in the banking business as an employe of the Cambridge Valley Bank, which institution he had served three years as cashier, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business. For nearly forty-six years Smith Brothers have been prominent factors in the growth and development of the city of Beatrice, the county of Gage and state of Nebraska.

In 1877 they organized the First National Bank of Beatrice, which was chartered and commenced business in April of that year. The directors of the bank were Hon. Algernon Sidney Paddock, Hiram W. Parker, Elijah Filley, Charles G. Dorsey, John E. and Samuel C. Smith, of Beatrice, and James Ellis, of New York. John E. Smith was president; Hiram W. Parker, vice-president; Samuel C. Smith, cashier; and Frank Graham, assistant cashier. The success of this banking enterprise was immediate. The statement of its condition at the close of the first nine months of its existence comprises not only an instructive commentary on the affairs of the bank itself, but is the first bank statement ever issued by any institution in Gage county. It is dated December 31, 1877, and is as follows:

Loans and Discounts	$61,574.20	Capital Stock	$50,000.00
United States Bonds	30,000.00	Surplus and Profits	1,603.26
Other Stocks and Bonds	3,073.50	Circulation	27,000.00
Real Estate	5,978.30	Deposits	60,471.61
Furniture and Fixtures	2,006.66	Unpaid Dividends	2,500.00
Premiums	2,550.00		
Due from Banks and United States Treasurer	22,052.74		
Cash on hand	14,339.47		
Total	$141,574.87	Total	$141,574.87

Its wonderful growth is shown by its report to the comptroller of the treasury at the close of business December 31, 1881:

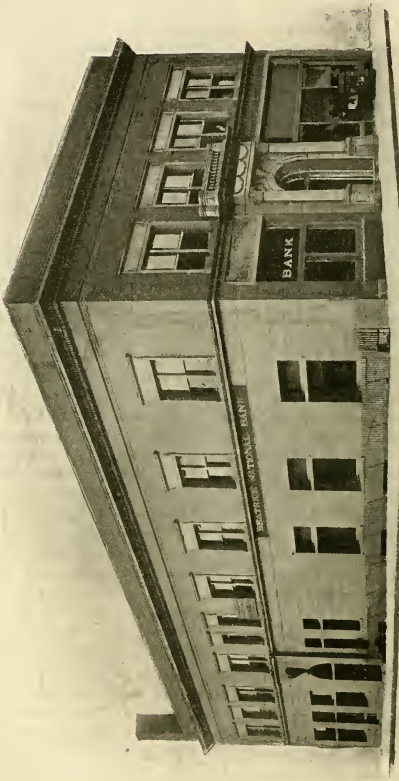
Loans and Discounts	$190,235.22	Capital Stock	$ 50,000.00
United States Bonds	50,000.00	Surplus and Profits	15,074.27
Other Stocks and Bonds	1,137.51	Circulation	45,000.00
Due from Banks and United States Treasurer	61,105.35	Deposits	204,552.11
		Re-discounts	19,000.00
Real Estate	6,861.30		
Furniture and Fixtures	2,800.00		
Cash on hand	21,487.00		
Total	$333,626.38	Total	$333,626.38

About the year 1885 the First National Bank building, on the corner of Fifth and Court streets was erected, and the bank was transferred to the commodious quarters arranged for it in this substantial structure.

This pioneer bank has had a remarkable career in the banking history of the state of Nebraska. In 1886, the Beatrice Savings Bank was organized and operated in connection with this institution, and from the beginning, Smith Brothers, had maintained a farm-loan department, separately incorporated however as the Smith Brothers Loan & Trust Company. All these institutions did a tremendous business, each in its line. Through Smith Brothers Loan & Trust Company the funds of the savings bank were largely invested in mortgages on western Kansas and Nebraska land. The business thus transacted was enormous, was most conservatively conducted, and under normal conditions would have proved very profitable to all parties concerned. But the great financial panic of 1893, coupled with a series of dry seasons which beggared nearly every man in the territory where these lands were located and drove thousands out of the country, caused such shrinkage in values as to force the Smith Brothers out of business. The savings bank passed into the hands of a receiver, and the stock of the First National Bank held by them passed to L. B. Howey and those associated with him in its purchase, and John and Samuel Smith, by these transactions, turned over to the creditors of their business enterprises all their non-exempt property. The saddest part of this business tragedy consists in the fact that the assets of the two banks were what in common parlance is described as "gilt-edge." Even under the wasteful management of a receivership the assets of the savings bank paid ninety cents on the dollar of its indebtedness, and if the Smith Brothers could have been given time, the restoration of values which shortly ensued would have left their several institutions entirely solvent and them with independent fortunes. They were innocent victims of the times and the lack of confidence in all financial institutions then widely prevalent. With superb courage, they have successfully re-established themselves in a profitable farm-loaning business known as the Farmers Trust Company, but more important than all, through all reverses of fortune, they have retained the confidence and esteem of a community to whose material, social and religious development they have so largely contributed.

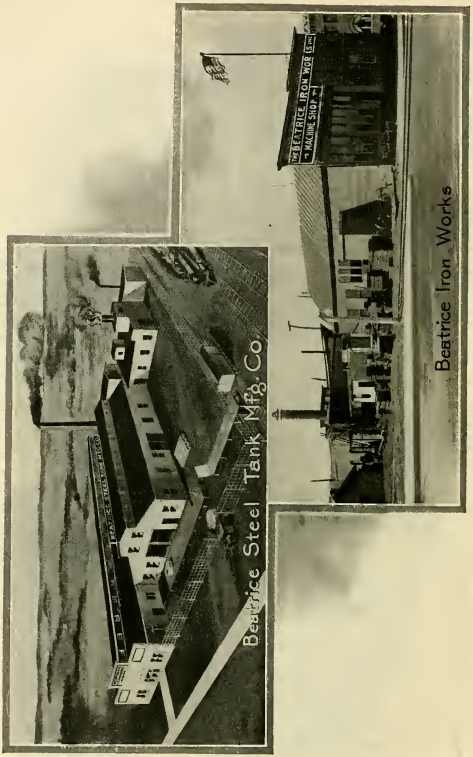
The reader has now witnessed the beginning of the banking business in the city of Beatrice and followed the history of its two pioneer banks to the present moment. It may be of interest, at least to those who come after us, to know that these two institutions are today stronger, more powerful and better than ever before. Since the death of Daniel W. Cook, in 1916, Wallace Robertson has been president of the Beatrice National Bank; R. J. Kilpatrick, vice-president; Daniel W. Cook, Jr., cashier; J. H. Doll, assistant cashier. Frederick H. Howey is president of the First National Bank; M. V. Nichols, first vice-president; William C. Black, second vice-president; R. B. Clemens, cashier; H. A. Reeves, assistant cashier. With its other activities the First National Bank, in 1909, organized and is successfully carrying on a savings bank, under the name of First State Savings Bank of Beatrice, Nebraska.

Numerous other banking ventures have been made in the city, some achieving a great success, some a dismal failure. One that in the early '80s promised to reach a position of great usefulness was The People's Bank, organized by John Ellis (a former county treasurer of Gage county), Horace L. Ewing, Warren Cole, Lafayette P. Brown, C. W. Collins and others, in 1882. Within a year after its organization Mr. Collins removed to Hebron, where he became the principal owner and president of the First National Bank of that city, an institution which he conducted to great prosperity. After the retirement of Mr. Collins, Ellis and his associates erected a splendid four-story, stone building at the corner of Fourth and Court streets, now the property of Milburn & Scott Company, and reorganized the bank into the Nebraska National



BEATRICE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

Union State Bank
Beatrice State Bank
The Nebraska State Bank
First National Bank


Beatrice Steel Tank Mfg. Co.
Beatrice Iron Works

Bank, with Ellis as president, Cole, vice-president, and Ewing, cashier. But the terrible financial panic of 1893-1896 found the bank unable to withstand the demands upon it, and it went down in a maelstrom of ruin. Its affairs were wound up by E. R. Fogg, the receiver, who paid about fifty per cent of the indebtedness.

In 1881 William A. Wolfe founded the German National Bank. Associated with him were George Arthur Murphy, Andrew W. Nickell, Dwight Coit and the W. H. Thrift estate; capital $100,000. Wolfe was chosen president; Nickell, vice-president; and Coit, cashier. After nearly a quarter of a century of successful business this bank liquidated in 1912, sold its building at No. 411 Court street to the Union Savings Bank, and retired from business. In 1913, Mr. Wolfe, with Dwight Coit, Hugo Ahlquist and others, organized the Nebraska State Bank, with Wolfe, president, and Coit, cashier; capital $50,000.

Another hopeful banking venture was that of the American Bank of Beatrice, organized in 1888 as the American Savings Bank, but soon changed to the American Bank, capital $100,000. The officers were: Charles E. White, president; Charles L. Schell, vice-president; John Henderson, cashier. The institution occupied the banking house owned by it at No. 110 North Fifth street, and now owned and occupied by the State Savings & Loan Association. This bank also was caught in the financial storm of 1893, and closed its doors on the second day of July of that year.

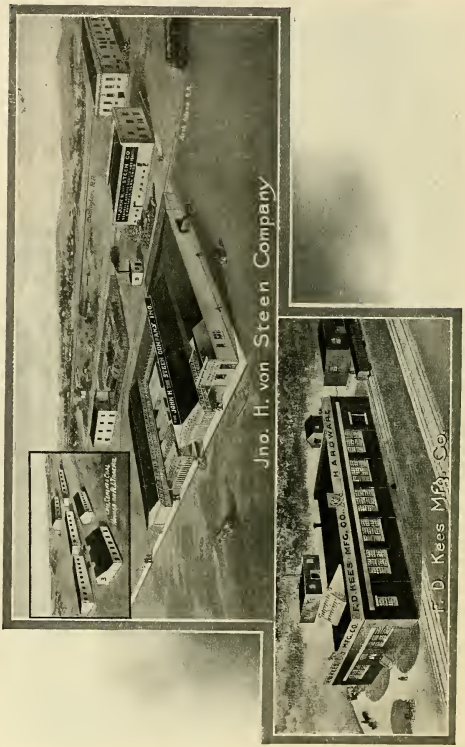
About the year 1889 L. E. Walker, Thomas Yule and others organized a bank known as the Union Savings Bank of Beatrice. After a few years Mr. Walker retired and Martin V. Nichols and John H. Penner became the leading stockholders of this concern, which then became a commercial bank, under the name of Union State Bank. This bank managed to exist until quite a recent date, when the stock was purchased by Robin B. Nickell, who about the same time purchased the stock of the German National Bank and consolidated the two into a strong financial institution now known as the Union State Bank, and owned by H. C. Arnold, John Anderson and others, with Arnold, president, and Anderson, cashier; capital $50,000.

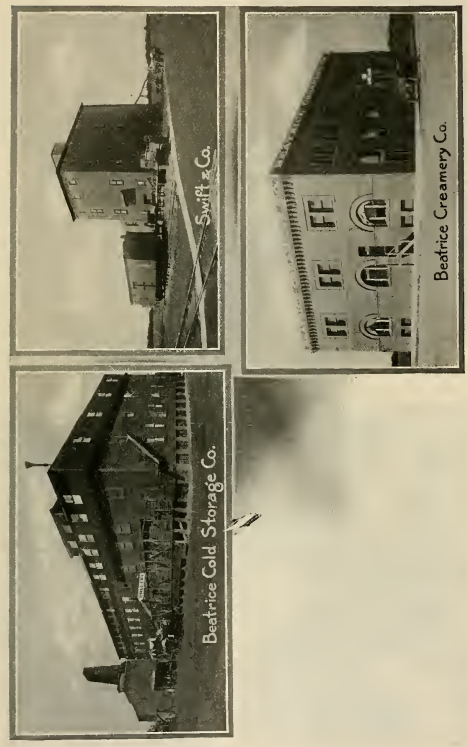
In February, 1892, the Farmers & Merchants State Bank was organized with a paid-up capital of $50,000, by William P. Norcross, Milo Baker, Eugene W. Wheelock, and others, and with Norcross, president; Baker, vice-president, and Wheelock, cashier. The bank was very conservatively managed and promised a long career of usefulness in the community. It opened with a fine patronage and this was continued until the great financial panic of 1893-1896, when banking had become so hazardous a risk as to be unattractive to capital. On the 31st of December, 1896, the Farmers & Merchants Bank went into voluntary liquidation, its depositors were paid in full and the stockholders' money returned to them dollar for dollar.

In 1908 the Beatrice State Bank was organized by F. E. Allen, of Auburn, Nebraska, J. T. Harden, H. H. Waite, Frank Morrison, Alpha Graf and others; capital $50,000. This institution has had a successful career and is ably and conservatively managed. F. E. Allen is president; J. T. Harden, vice-president, and H. H. Waite, cashier.

The city of Beatrice may be said to have been a manufacturing center of consequence from the date of its origin, in July, 1857. The old steam saw mill set up by the Townsite Company, employed in the manufacture of lumber from native timber for their immediate use, was supplanted in the early '60s by Fordyce Roper's water-power saw and grist mill and shingle and lath machines, all doing custom work and finally drawing trade from considerable distances. From these early days and crude beginnings to the present time Beatrice has steadily advanced until, in a trifle more than three score years from the date of her founding, she has gained first place as a manufacturing center amongst the cities of her class in Nebraska, as respects both the variety and the value of her manufactured products.

The mere enumeration of these forms an impressive and eloquent tribute to the genius


Jno. H. von Steen Company
F. D. Kees Mfg. Co.


Swift & Co.
Beatrice Creamery Co.
Beatrice Cold Storage Co.

5th St. Looking North from Court St.
5th Street Looking North
7th St. Looking North

and enterprise of her citizens. The list includes valuable agricultural implements, wind mills, gasoline engines, pumps, machinery for handling hay, irrigating and ditching machinery, well-drilling devices, galvanized steel tanks, burial vaults, portable corn cribs and granaries, woven-wire fencing, wire and slat fencing, cigars, ice cream, butter, tombstones and monuments, electricity, flour, meal and other cereal products, cement building blocks, bricks and tiling, blank books, corn-husking pegs and other hardware specialties, shirts, and many other articles of daily use and consumption.

The figures are not at hand to show the value of the manufactured products of the city as a whole; but since the great Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company stands at the head of the manufacturing industries of the city, perhaps of the state, some idea may be gained of the value of its products from the fact that it has a present capital and surplus of more than one and one-fourth million dollars, that it has over five hundred employes, exclusive of its Memphis plant, and an annual pay roll of over half a million dollars.

Several of the other factories of the city make a creditable and an impressive showing. Some of the more important concerns are the Beatrice Steel Tank Manufacturing Company, Beatrice Iron Works, the John H. von Steen Company and the F. D. Kees Manufacturing Company.

In addition to its manufacturing concerns Beatrice has several allied institutions. These are the Lang Canning & Preserving Company, the Beatrice Cold Storage Company, Swift & Company's poultry house, and the Beatrice Creamery Company.

The limitations of this work make a further enumeration or description of the manufacturing interests of the city inexpedient. It is sufficient to say here that as a manufacturing and distributing center Beatrice has acquired a prestige and a momentum that assure her future growth and prosperity.

Not only has the city acquired reputation as a manufacturing center but in recent years she has also set the pace for her competitors as a wholesaling point. Here are located the great Sondereggger Nurseries & Seed House, the Pease Grain & Seed Company, the E. S. Stevens wholesale grocery, and the Blue Valley Mercantile Company, also a wholesale grocery house.

Beatrice has latterly come to occupy an enviable position as a retailing center. Her merchants are enterprising and accommodating, their stocks large and varied, and trade is attracted to the city from long distances. With her attractive business houses and her magnificent system of street lighting, Beatrice certainly in its business district approaches the "City Beautiful."

But however attractive the business portion of the city, visitors never tire of traversing the residence districts, where there are found some of the most beautiful homes in the west. The extensive paving of the streets in recent years has greatly added to the charm of Beatrice as a residence city, and latterly attention has been given to architectural form and beauty in the erection of private residences. With the constant increase of wealth, the advancing years will witness a continual accession of artistic dwellings.

Both time and space forbid extended notice of the secret societies and benevolent orders. As it has been the aim of the author to avoid anything like a directory feature in this work, it must suffice here to say that almost all the societies and different orders found in the west are represented in Beatrice. He feels constrained, however, to give place here to an organization which all delight to honor and which is not a secret society nor is it to be classed with the benevolent orders. It is a list of the living members of Rawlins Post, No. 35, Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, which was chartered in 1880, dropped in 1881, reorganized and chartered December 27, 1882.

Avey, Samuel, Co. A, 10th Ohio Cav.

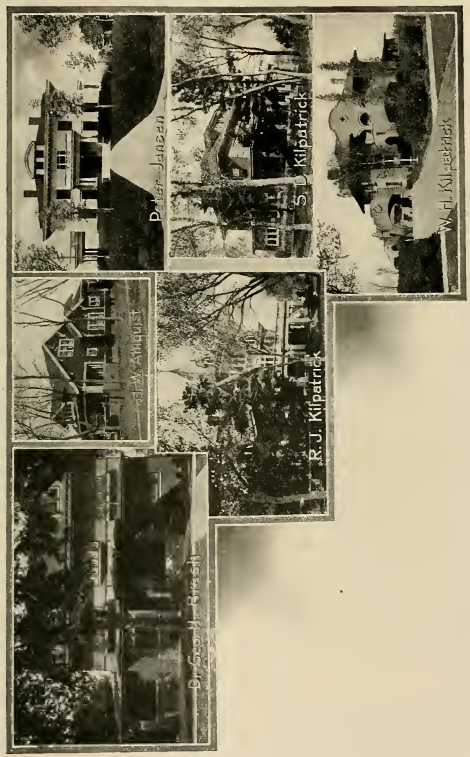
Armstrong, Thomas, Co. I, 39th Ill. Inft.

Armstrong, R., Co. F, 180th Ohio.

Arnett, Jeff (colored), Co. F, 125th U. S. Inft. (colored).

Bull, Stephen, Co. C, 186th N. Y. Inft.

Court St. Looking West from 6th
Court St. Looking West from 5th
Court St. at Night
Sixth St. Looking North from Court


Peter Jansen
S. D. Kilpatrick
W. H. Kilpatrick
R. J. Kilpatrick

Brother, Ferd, Surgeon 8th Mo. State Militia Vol.
Bress, S. W., Co. F, 18th Iowa Inft.
Black, W. H. H., Co. I, 42d Ind.
Brewster, A., Co. L, 15th N. Y. Engineer Brigade.
Brock, C. A., Co. F, 34th Ill. Inft.
Bell, William, Co. C, 1st Tenn. Inft.
Bevins, S., 1st Ohio Heavy Art.
Buck, George, Jr., Co. H, 2d Vt. Inft.
Brewster, A. W., Co. E, 128th Ind. Inft.
Calkins, D. K., Co. E, 34th Ill. Inft.
Craig, J. R., Co. B, 10th Ill. Inft.
Calland, H. S., Co. D, 92d Ohio.
Carmichael, John, Co. H, 46th Ill. Inft.
Carter, Frank, Co. A, 102d U. S. Vol. (colored).
Crangle, W. F., Co. A, 42d Ill. Inft.
Colby, L. W., Co. B, 8th Ill. Inft.
Coulter, R., Co. I, 104th Ohio.
Cousins, James, Co. G, 2d Iowa Inft. Died Feb. 23, 1917.
Confer, Daniel, Co. A, 34th Ind.
Claypool, J. W., Co. K, 143d Ill.
Davis, Samuel, Co. B, 8th Ill. Cav.
Dunn, Payson, Co. F, 37th Wis. Inft.
Decker, George, Co. E, 2d Conn.
Davis, George W., Co. A, 16th Kan. Cav.
Evans, G. D., Co. B, Wis. Inft.
Forbes, J. A., Co. F, 42d Ill. Inft.
Fletcher, J. C., Co. I, 3d Iowa Cav.
Fielder, William, Co. I, 72d Ill. Inft.
Frederick, John, Co. F, 82d Ill. Inft.
Gilmore, R. G., Co. D, 83d Penn.
Gray, L. D., Co. I, 13th Iowa Inft.
Geddes, Charles, Co. I, 16th Iowa Inft.
Gardner, R. E., Co. K, 3d Iowa Cav.
Glazier, N. Newton, Co. G, 11th Vt. Vol. (Lost left arm.)
Hemphill, R. C., Co. F, 13th Penn. Cav. Died Jan. 24, 1918.
Hutchins, T. E., Co. H, 20th Ind. Inft.
Hartwell, R. B., Co. G, 28th Iowa.
Jackson, J. W., Co. G, 124th Ill. Inft.
Kimmerly, D. J., Co. A, 13th N. Y. Died Jan. 19, 1918.
LaSelle, H. A., Co. D, 114th N. Y. Inft.
Lash, S. P., Co. H, 87th Ind. Inft.
Lilly, W. S., Co. H, 19th Mich. Inft.
Miller, S. T., Co. A, 34th Ill. Inft.
Mayborn, Thomas, Co. A, 14th N. Y.
Meeker, George, Co. G, 5th Iowa Inft.
Munson, Z., Co. H, 3d Mich. Cav.
McCrea, Ed., Co. C, 10th Mo. Cav. Died Nov. 10, 1917.
McCollery, Orvin, Co. C, 28th Mo. Died Jan. 19, 1916.
McKinney, William, Co. H, 27th Iowa.
Olsen, Iver A., Co. A, 88th Ill. Inft.
Pease, G. L., Co. F, 28th Conn. Inft.
Pfefferman, S., Co. B, 129th Ill. Inft.
Pagles, John, Co. K, 65th Ill.
Pape, Abraham, Co. F, 92d Ill. Inft.
Rice, Dr. A. T., Co. B, 91st Ind.
Randell, C. W., Co. I, 13th N. H.
Ramsey, J. H., Co. I, 3d Iowa Cav.
Reedy, A. J., Co. H, 1st Mo. Cav.
Roller, J. T., Co. D, 110th Penn. Inft. Died March 18, 1917.
Sterne, W. W., Co. K, W. Va. Cav.
Shafner, J. F., Co. B, 2d Minn. Cav.
Shottenkirk, W., Co. C, 113th Ill.
Sample, A., Co. C, 8th Iowa Cav.
Shaw, John, Co. K, 99th Ind.
Spiker, T. L., Co. G, 118th Ill. Inft.
Salts, Peter, Co. G, 76th Ohio Inft.
Smith, Charles A., Co. C, 17th Mich. Inft.
Smith, Edward, Musician 20th Ill. Inft.
Seymour, S. A., Co. E, 189th N. Y. Inft.
Thomas, Hiram, Co. D, 4th Ill. Cav.
Taylor, W. M., Co. A, 22d Pa. Cav.
Tucker, Robert, Co. H, 19th Mich. Inft.
Wilson, Charles, Co. F, 26th Ill. Inft. Died July 8, 1917.
Webb, John, Co. I, 118th Ill. Inft.
Walker, W. H., Co. E, 93d Ill. Inft.
Weston, William, Co. B, 161st Ohio Inft.

On the first day of July, 1868, there occurred in the little village of Beatrice an event of unusual significance. It was the appearance of the *Blue Valley Record*, the first newspaper published in Gage county. The proprietors of this paper were Joseph R. Nelson and Nathaniel Howard. It was a sorry little affair, judged by any standard of newspaper excellence, yet it is doubtful if any newspaper was ever more joyfully welcomed by any

community. Mr. Nelson, in writing of this venture years afterward, says:

There were, I think, not a thousand people in the county, and not half of them in Beatrice.

Nat Howard and I were talking of the advantage to be gained by having a newspaper published in Beatrice, and as I had some money and Nat the brains, we concluded to go into the newspaper business. When a boy I had played often in the office of the Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) *Telegraph*, thereby gaining the only real knowledge we had with which to start our paper.

We took a sheet of wrapping paper and marked out places for ads; then we went out to find them. We found everyone interested. All subscribed and some took several copies to send to friends east. Nat went to Nebraska City and I to Brownville, and each got a few more ads. We then sent to the Adams Press Company, of New York, for a press, and on May 27, 1868, they shipped us our little press (called now Army press), which arrived in Nebraska City sometime in June.

We hurried to the city to get it, as well as the other materials, which we had bought of Tom Morton, who owned and ran the Nebraska City *News*, Sterling Morton being the editor. As we did not know the boxes, and being in a hurry, we concluded to have the cases with paper between them, and loaded them into our wagon (wagons then being the only means of transportation between Nebraska City and Beatrice) and started for home.

When we arrived in Beatrice we found our type somewhat mixed, and it took us several days to sort it out. The only way we knew the boxes was by the ones that had the most of one kind in. We worked early and late, copied from Nebraska City and Brownville papers, and when we got stuck we slipped out of town to see Tom Morton, who kindly helped us, and finally we launched our first paper on the waves, and were more proud of it than a father of his first-born.

We expected encouragement from the papers, and the Nebraska City *News* and *Press* and Brownville *Advocate* gave us a good "send-off," but the galoot that ran the Marysville *Locomotive* said our paper looked as though it had been set up by a coal-heaver. That made us mad and I wanted him thrashed, for I had set it up myself, with the help of Nat Baker, a young boy, and thought I had done it extra well, but in after years concluded he was more than half right.

We printed one page at a time and had to pull type from one ad. to fix up others and sometimes made a mixed-up mess of it. We sent Warren Chesney to Nebraska City to collect, and he told us that when he presented the bill to one man he ordered him out, with a promised thrashing, — said he did not order that ad., and another thing he would not pay for one with another man's name to it. We looked over the paper and found the wooden reglet had slipped, and in putting it back we had got it in the wrong place. Warren said that when we wanted any more bills collected we could do it ourselves.

We sent Silas Harrington to Meridian to collect from a man who ran a saw mill, and told him to take it out in lumber. We did not see him for several weeks after his return, till meeting him one day and asking him where the lumber was, he pointed to his new house, and said, "There it is," and there it was, nailed fast.

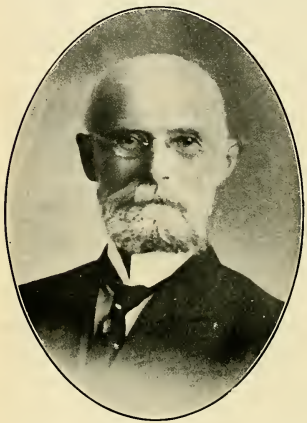
We had many such trials and tribulations, with plenty of hard work, for nine months, when we sold a half interest to Mr. Hogshead. We next sold out to Theodore Coleman, and thus ended my newspaper experience.

Upon the sale of the half-interest in the *Blue Valley Record* to J. M. Hogshead, the name of the paper was changed to the Beatrice *Clarion*, the first number of which appeared Saturday, May 8, 1869, with the motto "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." The publishers' names were given as J. M. Hogshead & Company, and the company consisted of J. M. Hogshead, Joseph R. Nelson, Nathaniel Howard, and Captain William H. Ashby. Of these owners all but Nelson had seen service in the Confederate army, but Howard, Hogshead, and Ashby were all fine-looking, courtly gentleman, and were a welcome addition to the social and business interests of Beatrice. The biography and portrait of Joseph R. Nelson appear in Chapter XVII of this volume, entitled "A Roll of Honor."

Theodore Coleman, who in 1870 purchased the Beatrice *Clarion*, gives for this history the following narrative of his newspaper experience in Beatrice:

"After having, at the age of twenty years, broken into the newspaper game in northern Wisconsin and carried on the same for several years with a measure of success that stopped short, to be sure, of illuminating the

northwestern horizon with its glow, I heeded a suggestion conveyed by a letter from Joe Nelson (pardon the colloquialism touching Mr. Nelson's name), and went to Beatrice for an inspection of journalistic conditions there. My entry into Gage county was not exactly of a triumphant character, since I had to tarry three days in Iowa before the running ice in the Missouri river would allow the primitive ferry to operate across to Nebraska City; and upon finally arriving in that metropolis, it was



THEODORE COLEMAN
Founder of the Beatrice *Express*

found that transportation to Beatrice was limited to a loaded farmer's wagon, returning to his home ten miles north of my objective point. However, the walking was good and no difficulty was found in negotiating the ten miles.

"This was in 1870. The Gage County *Clarion* was the one newspaper of Beatrice at the time, — published weekly and carrying on its title page the rather startling motto (for a clarion) "Hew to the Line, Let the Chips Fall Where they May." The ownership of the *Clarion* was divided among several embryonic Greeleys and Danas and Hearsts and Northcliffes, including my friend Nelson, Mr. John Hogshead and Mr. Nathaniel Howard. Whether Captain Ashby was of the syndicate I do not know, but he had had some connection with newspaperdom in Beatrice, as I remember. I suspect there was a holding concern back of these gentlemen, for when it came to negotiations for the purchase of the *Clarion* the proposed payment of something like five hundred dollars for it on my part caused such a flurry in newspaper financial circles that frequent consultations with an unknown party to the deal seemed necessary.

"However, it went through and I acquired the property and with it the services of Mr. Hogshead, the only printer of the dissolved corporation. Changing the title of the paper to the Beatrice *Express* did not wound the feelings of the retiring proprietors, and this was done. At that time the home of the paper was the stone building on Market street near Fourth, where the newly christened *Express* was published until removal to the classic precincts of the old frame school-building then standing on Fifth street, north of Court. There we remained until the transfer to the second story of a business building on Court street.

"Certain primitive conditions obtained in Nebraska in the early '70s that somewhat hampered the production of high-class journalistic work. In the first place, mechanical facilities were so limited that in the necessary task of casting inking-rollers for our four-page forms I was on more than one occasion obliged to make a stage trip to Brownville for glue. The Clarion did not boast a job press among its assets, but its fonts of type included a few that could be used in setting up simple handbills and the like, to be worked off on the same hand-lever press from which the paper was issued in weekly installments to a waiting constituency of some three hundred or more. I soon added a rotary job-press and concomitants, and its manipulation was put into the hands of a young southerner named Bailey, who, as I recall, was an old friend of Messrs. Howard and Hogshead. The former seemed

to be at the editorial helm of the *Clarion* (if the mixed metaphor may be used), with Mr. Hogshead as chief officer. John was a good printer, but it pains me to have to acknowledge that the sole effusion of his pen that sticks in my memory in connection with the last days of the *Clarion* was to the effect that a darky exclaimed as he fled from an angry bull: 'Millions for de fence.'

"It may be said without egotism that the *Express* grew apace with the growth of Beatrice, and that it was always generously supported by the people who constituted the rapidly developing community. Of these there remain with me after the elapsed half-century no memories that are not pleasant to dwell upon. Among them, I visualize now (using the familiar vernacular of that early period), Pap Towle, J. B. Weston, John and Sam Smith, Lige Filley, Judge Parker, Joe Saunders, Gil Loomis, Dan Freeman, Uncle Jimmy Boyd, Volney Whitmore, Jack Pethoud, Charley and Carl Emery, Joe McDowell, Nate Blakely, N. K. Griggs, Joe Fletcher, Colonel and Captain Presson, Oliver Townsend, Dr. Reynolds, George Hurlburt, Thacker, Dan and Alvin Marsh, Pemberton, Willard, George and Charley Dorsey, Ford Roper, Dean, Davis, et al. If Tom Shubert had been able to read and if "Old Man Chrisman" could have remained sober long enough to have achieved the same accomplishment, it is certain they would have been among the readers of the *Express*.

"Mentor A. Brown came into the office in 1873, I think, first as a most competent printer, and later as one of my successors in the proprietorship of the paper. His successful career as a newspaper man for these many years is generally known to Beatrice people. It is a matter of no little personal satisfaction that during all these forty and more years, his paper — first the *Express* and then the Kearney *Hub* — has reached my home each publication day, with his compliments. Another early employe on the *Express* now lives and thrives as a master printer in Los Angeles, ten miles from my own residence — John Burke. Anent John, let this digression, if you will, creep into your veracious annals: On a day in 1884, while I was publishing the Santa Clara *Journal* in this state, a strange specimen of the now extinct *genus homo* known as tramp printer, walked into my office and asked for work. Upon close examination he was revealed as Johnny Burke. A day's work was followed by his complete disappearance, and he was not visible to me again until three years ago, when he was accidentally 'met up with' in the guise of a portly, fine appearing foreman in the office of one of the Los Angeles dailies.

"C. B. Palmer came to Beatrice as principal of the high school and soon thereafter bought an interest in the *Express*, chiefly as a means of printing and distributing a monthly educational periodical. When the election of A. S. Paddock to the United States senate took place in 1875, I conceived the idea of going to Washington and helping him run the government, which being done, the *Express* was soon thereafter sold to L. W. Colby, and my return to Beatrice was indefinitely postponed."

Theodore Coleman was born in Rochester, New York, January 26, 1842, of New England (Nantucket) and Dutch lineage.

The family removed to Dubuque, Iowa, and a little later to Galena, Illinois, the lure being the lead mines of those districts. The death of his mother at Galena, in 1846, resulted in a return of the remaining members of the family to Rochester.

From Rochester another family trek was taken, in 1849, to Toronto, Canada, where Mr. Coleman's father had bought a saw mill on the shores of the bay. Theodore attended the Toronto Model School on King street, Toronto (price three pence per week), until 1852, assisting meantime in digging the first sod of Canada's first railroad, the Grand Trunk.

Back to Rochester in 1852, where the enterprising head of the family was, in 1857-1858, financially floored by building Main street bridge across the Genessee river for the city and failing to collect under his $50,000 contract because of an alleged weak abutment — that still, after a lapse of sixty years, sturdily sustains the west end of the bridge. Attend-

ance at the public school and work in a flour mill, a grocery and on the aforesaid bridge filled the period from 1852 to 1859, when another shift of residence was made, this time to Cincinnati. Thence up the Mississippi and Chippewa rivers to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, went the family in 1860. There, amidst somewhat primeval surroundings, a halt was made for ten years, logging and saw-mill work occupying the men of the family. Some sort of literary work, however, had always appealed to the member under consideration, so the chance to go into the office of the *Chippewa Valley Union* as printer boy was eagerly seized. Two years thereafter Mr. Coleman bought the plant, and published the little weekly for two years, selling it out in order to piece out his disappointed school education by going for a year to Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Massachusetts, and for another year to Antioch College. Upon closing this agreeable chapter, he returned to Wisconsin and helped for a time to keep the saws running in his father's mill. Then away to Beatrice and into the newspaper work again, soon seeking a little time to go back to the northern state upon matrimonial intentions bent. The carrying out of this intention was a very fortunate achievement for him, as not a few of the present population of Beatrice who knew Mrs. Coleman would be willing to attest.

The thirty-nine years' residence in California following the close of four years of government work in Washington, has been largely taken up with newspaper publishing and editing; but for the last fifteen years Mr. Coleman has been occupied with duties of a more distinctly business character, first as secretary and business manager of an educational institution in Pasadena — Throop Polytechnic Institute and College — and later as similar officer of the Pasadena Hospital Association. His newspaper work in California was as publisher of the Santa Clara *Journal* and, in Pasadena, in an editorial capacity on the Pasadena *Star* and the Pasadena *News*. His family of two sons and two daughters, two of them natives of Beatrice, are married and all but one of the four are living in Pasadena. The oldest son is a resident of Arizona.

Mentor A. Brown, who succeded Theodore Coleman in the ownership of the Beatrice *Express*, January 7, 1884, has written for this history the following interesting reminiscent narrative of his connection with the paper:

"My knowledge of the newspapers of Gage county dates from the 20th day of July, 1871. On the evening of July 19th I disembarked from a Kansas and Nebraska stage coach after a dusty ride from Crete, at the old Pacific House, of which George Hurlburt was landlord. The following morning the office of the Beatrice *Express* was discovered in a small one-room frame building that had formerly housed the public schools of the pioneer village, and it still remained in the center of a block of ground with no other building nearer than Ella and Fifth streets. This intervening space was for several summers afterward utilized by the 'fans' as a baseball park.

"Theodore Coleman was the sole proprietor and editor of the *Express*. He had purchased the plant of the *Clarion* the previous year and changed the name to the *Express*. The shop was equipped with a Washington hand-press (which served until the fall of 1883) and a limited assortment of type and other material. There was one printer in the shop, a big six-foot Mississippian named Hogshead, with the imposing front and the swing of the old-time southern colonel, sandy 'complected' and of surpassing good nature. The first 'devil' who was initiated soon afterward was 'Johnnie' Burke, who is still plying his trade and a member of the typographical union in good standing at Los Angeles. They had induced the writer to quit a job as a compositor on the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*, to do the job printing, set the 'ads,' etc. The proprietor, Mr. Coleman, was not a skillful printer, but was a capable newspaper man, a versatile and graceful writer and also a capable business

man. Charles B. Palmer, principal of the Beatrice schools, also a practical printer, became associated with Mr. Coleman in 1871, and Coleman & Palmer were the publishers until January 1, 1874, when the 'cub' bought out Mr. Palmer and the firm name was changed to Coleman & Brown. This partnership and business association was very harmonious, but was interrupted when Mr. Coleman accepted a position in Washington as secretary to Senator Paddock, and by the sale of his interest in the paper to Mr. Colby, in 1876. Soon thereafter the junior partner also sold his interest to Mr. Colby, but he remained in charge and conducted the business until the winter of 1876-1877, when he purchased an interest in the Fairbury *Gazette*; but in the early fall of 1877 he returned to Beatrice, having purchased Mr. Colby's entire interest in the *Express*, and became sole proprietor. The paper grew with the town, and in 1884 the *Daily Express* greeted the public. In the summer of 1888 the writer disposed of his entire interests in the newspaper and printing plant to Kilpatrick Brothers, and in October of that year he removed to Kearney, where he established the Kearney *Daily and Weekly Hub*.

"The first rival newspaper of the *Express* was the *Courier*, published by Conlee and Ritchie, about 1875. Mr. Ritchie soon retired and the paper itself lived but a short time, its career being both sensational and tempestuous. Mr. Alex W. Conlee was one of the old type of 'personal' journalists and a very interesting character. At a later date, M. B. Davis, lawyer, published the Beatrice *Republican*. The Beatrice *Democrat* was established about the middle of the '80s by George P. Marvin, a vigorous, aggressive and capable newspaper man, father of the present publisher of the Beatrice *Sun*, which later succeeded the *Democrat*.

"It might be mentioned that Beatrice was the original home of the educational journal, the '*Nebraska Teacher*,' which was first published by Mr. Palmer, printed in the office of the *Express* on a hand press, and removed to Lincoln in 1877, when the publisher removed to the capital to take charge of the preparatory department of the Nebraska State University."

Mentor A. Brown was born February 19, 1853, at Janesville, Wisconsin. His mother died in his infancy; his father died on Sherman's march to the sea.

Mr. Brown was reborn as printer's devil, office of *New Era*, Jefferson, Iowa, June 25, 1866. "Swarmed" July 17, 1870, and spent a year in Nebraska City, Omaha, and Council Bluffs. Found himself in Beatrice, Nebraska, July 19, 1871. Connected with Beatrice *Express* as printer, partner, publisher, and editor, until October, 1888. Nearly fifty-two years' service in "print-shop." He married and has three sons and two daughters and eleven grandchildren living; wife Sophie G., daughter of the late Captain C. J. Schmidt, of Beatrice.

The *Republican*, of which Mr. Brown speaks in his reminiscent article, was founded about 1886 by J. W. Hill, M. B. Davis later acquiring a half-interest in it. It was conducted several years by them as partners. Mr. Davis was a vigorous writer and secured for the paper a good circulation. It was a weekly newspaper and Republican in politics. About the first of May, 1892, Davis sold his half-interest in the paper to William L. Knotts and it was conducted by Hill and Knotts a short time, when Knotts acquired full ownership. About 1900 he sold it to Winfield Scott Tilton, a practical newspaper man from Kansas. The name of the paper was changed to the Beatrice *Times* and was conducted by him very ably till about 1909, when he abandoned the field and removed his press and other newspaper materials to Oklahoma.

More than twenty-one years ago Emil Schultz established in Beatrice a German-language newspaper called the *Nebraska Post*, and this has had a continuous existence till July 1, 1918, when, out of deference to pub-

lic opinion, Mr. Schultz with commendable patriotism suspended the publication of his paper till the close of the great world-war now raging with the utmost fury in all western Europe — a war in which our own government has plunged with the maximum of energy and enthusiasm, in defense of democratic institutions.

Court Street, Beatrice, in 1908

CHAPTER XXIII

BLUE SPRINGS

The historic town of Blue Springs dates its origin from the year 1857, at almost the identical moment that Beatrice was founded. In July of that year James H. Johnson, Jacob Poff, Martin Elliott and his sons Stephen, William, and Henry Elliott, with their families, settled on the public domain at Blue Springs and its immediate vicinity, and, in conjunction with the government surveyors who were then engaged in surveying the public lands in that vicinity, they projected a townsite company and marked out into town lots three hundred and twenty acres of land, comprising, with other lands, the present townsite of Blue Springs. But there was little inducement at that early day for engaging in such enterprises, and this company did not even go to the trouble of acquiring title to the lands they had selected for a townsite. The project was finally abandoned, and Reuyl Noyes and Joseph Chambers, returning from a gold-mining venture at Pike's Peak, took it up. They were enterprising young men and undertook to develop Blue Springs into an attractive frontier town. Amongst other things they attempted to divert travel from the Oregon Trail at Ash Point, near Richmond, in Nemaha county, Kansas, to Blue Springs and westward about twelve miles to the Caldwell ranch, on the old trail. It must be remembered that the Oregon Trail was to Nebraska territory in that early day what a trunk line of railway would be now to an undeveloped section of country. The principal crossing of the Big Blue river was at Marysville, in a direction south of west from Ash Point. From Marysville the trail took a northwesterly course across the southern part of the Otoe Indian reservation, to the Rock Creek stage station; part way, near the head waters of Indian creek, was Caldwell ranch. By diverting the travel by way of Richmond and Blue Springs the distance was considerably less. These enterprising proprietors of Blue Springs and their friends, having first, in 1859, borrowed the necessary money for that purpose from Robert A. Wilson, acquired by purchase the tract of ground where Blue Springs is located, in section 17 of that township, giving him a mortgage on it. They built a double, story-and-a-half, hewed-log ranch house on the northeast corner of block 5 of the original town of Blue Springs, at the intersection of Hazen and Main streets. They also built a toll bridge across the Big Blue river, and drew a furrow from the point of departure on the old trail, past Richmond, to Blue Springs and on to the Caldwell ranch. But Seneca, the rival of Richmond, defeated this project by diverting travel from the old trail to herself. Mrs. Rebecca Woodward, who in the spring of 1859 was living at Richmond, sold her possessions there, and in anticipation of the success of the movement to divert travel to Blue Springs, moved to that place, bought the Noyes & Chambers building and immediately became a factor in the development of the village. There were at that time three other log cabins built under the bluffs along Spring creek. This was really the origin of Blue Springs. Mrs. Woodward and a number of others had bought lots in the town as originally surveyed, but on account of the Wilson mortgage, title could not be made. Chambers and Noyes finally abandoned their townsite interests and Wilson succeeded to their rights. In 1861 in order to quiet the demands of those who had pur-

chased lots of Chambers and Noyes, Wilson caused the original townsite of Blue Springs to be surveyed and platted by Solon M. Hazen, and placed the plat thereof on record in the office of the register of deeds on the 7th day of June, 1861, whereupon he deeded to the claimants lots in the townsite as platted and recorded. Several additions have been made to Blue Springs. the principal ones being Hollister's, Blackman's, Casebeer's, and Hill's additions. The city, with its additions, now occupies a considerable portion of sections 17 and 18 of Blue Springs township.

The growth of Blue Springs was slow. In 1863, when this writer, a youth of thirteen summers, attended school there, the families living in the village and its immediate vicinity were those of William B. Tyler, Dr. Levi Anthony, Martha Johnson (widow of James H. Johnson, a first settler at Blue Springs), Robert A. Wilson, Lynus Knight, James Lott, Thomas Armstrong, King Fisher, and Herbert Viney. About 1863 Solon M. Hazen opened a general store at the corner of Scott and Hazen streets, and in 1868 William Tichnor, at that time one of the county commissioners of Gage county, built a dam across the Big Blue river and erected a fine mill, including a saw, lath and shingle mill. This enterprise imparted to Blue Springs the character of a business center, since people were compelled to have their grists ground, their logs sawed, and their laths and shingles riven. Thereafter the village grew apace, and about 1872 there was quite an influx of immigrants from the east to Blue Springs,—the Casebeers, Gambees, Wonders, Harpsters, Shocks, and others, mostly from Pennsylvania and Ohio. The territory tributary to Blue Springs was well populated by 1870, and the village had grown rapidly during the closing years of that decade, the federal census of 1870 showing a population of 354. In 1880 the population had increased to 513; in 1890, according to the census, there were 963 inhabitants; in 1900 there were 786 and in 1910 the number was 712. While these figures show a decrease in population from 1890 to 1900, and a small decrease between 1900 and 1910, it must be borne in mind that the census of 1890, as far as population is concerned, was utterly unreliable, and there were probably no more inhabitants in the city in 1900 than in 1910; the strong probability is that there was no actual loss in population after the year 1900. Since the last census Blue Springs has grown materially and an enumeration would probably show a population of nearly a thousand souls.

Blue Springs always, even in territorial days, maintained a most enviable reputation on account of its attitude on all moral questions, and the worth of character of its citizenry. Crime is almost unknown in Blue Springs. There has never been a murder committed in that community, and prosecution for even minor offenses is almost unknown. The character of the citizens is well illustrated by the attitude of the community on the question of the licensed saloon, when that was a disturbing factor in municipal affairs throughout the state. It never looked with favor upon the saloons, although yielding occasionally to the pressure brought for them, but in 1898 this arch enemy of good morals and virtuous manhood was by the voters of Blue Springs banished forever from the community. This writer testifies with the keenest satisfaction to the high moral tone that has always characterized the beautiful city of Blue Springs.

The first bridge erected across the Big Blue river in Gage county was the Noyes-Chambers toll bridge, in the spring of 1859, which has already been mentioned. As the travel on the proposed cut-off from Ash Point to Blue Springs and beyond did not materialize, the proprietors, in the autumn of 1859, sold their bridge to Samuel Shaw, and the spring freshet of 1861 carried it away,—and nearly carried Mr. Shaw away with it. It was not rebuilt, nor was there any effort made to erect a bridge at Blue Springs until about the year 1870, when Gage county placed an iron bridge across the river at the point where the present steel bridge is found. The old bridge was moved to Beatrice and erected across the Big Blue river at the Scott street crossing. The flood of 1903 dropped it into the water

and it was finally removed and rebuilt across the river a mile north of Beatrice, near the Zimmerman Springs.

About the year 1880 John E. Smith, Samuel C. Smith and Joel C. Williams established the Bank of Blue Springs. Williams afterward acquired the stock of the Smith brothers and successfully conducted the bank for a number of years, but he was unable to withstand the difficulties of the great panic of 1893-1898, and finally, about 1895, closed the doors of the bank and liquidated its obligations as far as his shrunken assets would permit. About the year 1890 the Blue Springs State Bank was founded by O. N. Wheelock and others, which several years later passed into other hands. The present stockholders of this bank are Wm. C. Black, Jr., and Ralph Clemmons, of Beatrice; and T. J. Patton, O. E. Bishop and George F. Harris, of Blue Springs. Mr. Black is president of the board of directors and Mr. Patton is cashier.

A number of years ago the late Cochran F. Black and his brother, William C. Black, Sr., acquired by purchase the title to the Blue Springs mill and dam. This pioneer milling property was thoroughly overhauled by the new proprietors and, at great expense, one of the best mills in the county was evolved. Its present owners are William C. Black, Sr., and the estate of Cochran S. Black. This valuable property is managed by R. W. Kanagy.

In addition to the business enterprises here mentioned, Blue Springs has two grain elevators, a good lumber and coal yard, and nearly every retail business common to cities of its class in Nebraska is represented.

THE BRIDGE AND MILL AT BLUE SPRINGS
Looking up the Big Blue river from the south

In 1896 M. A. Farr began the publication of the Blue Springs *Weekly Motor*, and from that day to this the city has possessed a good newspaper. The *Motor* was succeeded by the *Sentinel*, a paper established, owned, and edited by the late James H. Casebeer, and now conducted by his son Clarence Casebeer. It has always been a remarkably clean and reliable newspaper and has rendered invaluable service to its readers as a dissemina-

tor of information and a pillar of public morals.

The first school in Blue Springs was a subscription school (in 1861) taught by Miss Lucy Johnson, a daughter of Rankin Johnson, one of the early settlers of that locality. Following this, Mrs. Maria Sargent, wife of J. T. Sargent, taught a subscription school in her own house, a log cabin, and had twelve pupils. In 1862 Miss Wealthy Tinkham, afterward Mrs. Joseph Hollingsworth, taught the first public school in Blue Springs, and in 1863 her sister Margaret, afterward Mrs. Nathan Blakely, taught the second public school, with an enrollment of sixteen pupils. During the Indian troubles on the Little Blue river and farther west, 1864, 1865, 1866, little attention seems to have been given to education, but in 1869 a small school-house was erected and thereafter a school was regularly taught in Blue Springs. The district now possesses a fine, two-story, brick school-house, containing eight rooms, and employs eight teachers, with an enrollment of more than two hundred pupils.

As early as 1859 the Methodists organized a church in Blue Springs, with John Foster as its pastor. This organization was fostered and sustained by the pioneers to a man. In 1879 the citizens assisted in erecting a stone church building for the Methodists, a movement contemporary with the building of the old stone church in Beatrice. Besides the Methodist church, the Presbyterians, the Evangelical Association, the United Brethren, and the Christian churches are represented, all owning substantial edifices for the worship of Almighty God.

Blue Springs High School

Both the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows have very strong organizations in Blue Springs, the latter having a membership of upwards of one hundred and fifty. A number of the beneficiary orders also are represented in Blue Springs.

During the Civil war, in 1863, the village of Blue Springs and its tributary territory contributed a number of volunteers to the Nebraska Second Regiment of Volunters. The regiment was part of General Sully's

command, dispatched by the government to put down the Indian uprising in Minnesota. Some of the volunteers from Blue Springs were Francis M. Graham, George Dessert, H. S. Barnum, and Edward Armstrong.

A government postoffice was established in Blue Springs about 1859, with William B. Tyler, postmaster. The mails were at first carried on horseback from Nebraska City and Brownville, and for many years the postoffice at Blue Springs served a large portion of southern Gage county with mail facilities.

Blue Springs is electrically lighted with current from the Holmesville plant. It owns its own waterworks and by an arrangement with Wymore its springs of pure water are utilized for both cities at the expense of Wymore.

The isolation of Blue Springs was broken in 1879 by the construction of the Union Pacific line of railway from Marysville to Beatrice, as well as by the extension of the Burlington line from Beatrice to the main southern line of the company. At one time, in 1880, it seemed as if Blue Springs might become the junction point, but by over-confidence and mismanagement she allowed this splendid opportunity to slip from her grasp. At first the extension of the Beatrice line was more in the nature of a disaster than a benefit. The Burlington road, for reasons of its own, refused to stop its trains or build a depot, or to recognize in any way the existence of Blue Springs, but rushed across the corporation, regardless of its public duty as a common carrier, to Wymore, which with this favoritism was growing by leaps and bounds. But in 1885 F. W. Mattoon, a citizen of Blue Springs, brought in the supreme court of Nebraska a proceeding in mandamus, to compel the road to afford Blue Springs railway facilities. The application was sustained, and thereafter the railroad grudgingly complied with the mandate of the court.

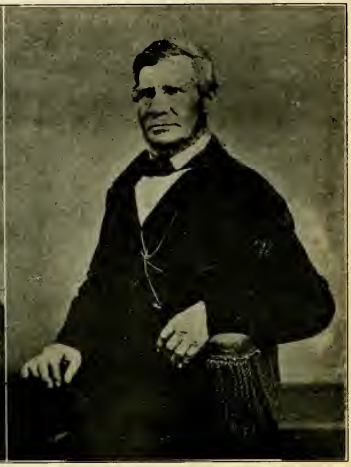
Blue Springs, though missing this great opportunity, has remained beautiful and attractive, as she was in the beginning. No "homier" place exists in all the boundaries of the state.

Amongst the sturdy pioneers who in her infancy guided the destiny of Blue Springs were William B. Tyler, Rebecca Woodward, Robert A. Wilson, Solon M. Hazen, and Dr. Levi Anthony.

Mr. Tyler was familiarly and affectionately known as "Pap" Tyler. He was of Holland extraction and in many ways possessed the shrewdness which characterized the Hollander. He was born in York county, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1801, at the very threshhold of the nineteenth century. In early life he married Sarah Wilt, of his native village. In 1842 she passed away, leaving a family of four children. After the death of his wife Mr. Tyler, in 1843, enlisted in the First United States Regiment of Dragoons and he served through the Mexican war. His first term of enlistment expiring in 1848, he reënlisted and remained in the service of the United States continuously until 1854, when he was honorably discharged, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He at once entered the service of the government in a clerical position in the quartermaster's department, where he remained until 1859. He then started to Salt Lake City to take a similar position under the government, but changed his mind and, in March of that year, settled at Blue Springs. He purchased a quarter-section of land a mile or so up the river from the village. In 1860 Mr. Tyler married Rebecca Woodward, who, when this writer with his parents crossed the Big Nemaha at old Richmond, Nemaha county, Nebraska, on their way to Gage county, Nebraska, kept the ranch at Richmond which was intended to be a station on the Blue Springs cut-off from the Oregon Trail, and who shortly afterward sold out at Richmond and bought the Noyes-Chambers ranch house in Blue Springs and came there to live. At the time of this marriage Mrs. Woodward was in possession of considerable means for those days, and she was probably the wealthiest person in Gage county for several years. Several of the first instruments recorded in our county represent business transactions in her name. At the time of this marriage she was about forty years of age and an amiable, accomplished, and very capable woman. She passed away in 1870, mourned by all who knew her.

William B. Tyler was county commissioner of Gage county during the years of 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, and in 1864, with Fordyce Roper and F. H. Dobbs as associate commissioners, adjusted the affairs of old Clay county after its partition between Lancaster and Gage. From 1860 until his death, in 1889, he was a judge at every annual election in the county and also the messenger who carried

Mrs. Rebecca Tyler



William B. Tyler

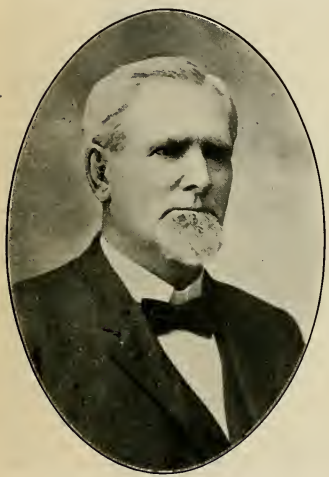
the returns of Blue Springs to the county clerk.

He was a kindly, genial soul, and to the last moment of his life was one of the most public-spirited citizens of Blue Springs. As a youth the writer spent nearly an entire year under the roof of William and Rebecca Tyler as a member of their household, and he desires here to testify his appreciation of their uniform kindness and goodness of heart.

Robert A. Wilson was born in Decatur, Indiana, on the 4th day of February, 1833. In 1848 his parents moved to Iowa, where his father died while yet a young man. In 1856 Mr. Wilson came to Omaha and later he went to Nebraska City, where he met Judge John Fitch Kinney, and, being a practical millwright and miller, he was about to engage with Judge Kinney to come to Beatrice and set up and take charge of the steam saw mill owned by the Beatrice Townsite Company. He was deterred from entering into this arrangement, and probably from becoming a citizen of Beatrice, by the remark of some friend to the effect that the members of the Beatrice Townsite Company were all college-bred men and knew nothing about saw mills. Mr. Wilson and his brother William did, however, about that time accept from the United States government service which took them to the Otoe and Missouri Indian Agency, where they erected the government steam saw and grist mill and ran the same until 1860. In the autumn of that year he returned to Iowa and married Miss Amelia Darner. Prior to his

leaving the territory he had loaned Joseph Chambers five hundred dollars with which to purchase the tract of land where Blue Springs now stands, and had taken a mortgage upon the prospective townsite to secure this indebtedness. Learning that Chambers and his partner Noyes had disposed of their interests in Blue Springs and abandoned the projected townsite, Mr. Wilson returned to Nebraska territory and settled in Blue Springs in 1861. Shortly after his arrival he procured the services of Solon M. Hazen and surveyed and platted the original town of Blue Springs. From 1865 to 1868 he was employed in the mill of Perry Hutchison, at Marysville, Kansas. During the latter year he was interested with William Tichnor in building the dam and mill at Blue Springs.

For many years Mr. Wilson led the simple life of a farmer, on a fine tract of land adjoining the townsite of Blue Springs. Some years ago he retired from his farm and he is spending the remnant of his life in the beautiful little city of which he was the founder nearly three score years ago. He is slowly recovering from the shock of a serious surgical operation performed nearly a year ago, and he and his aged wife are the objects of the veneration and love of the entire community.



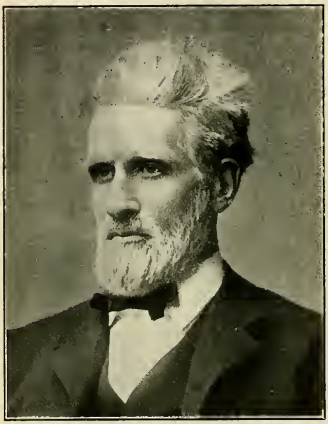
ROBERT A. WILSON
Founder and pioneer resident of Blue Springs

MRS. AMELIA WILSON
Wife of Robert A. Wilson

Robert A. Wilson is a man of heroic stature, standing considerably over six feet, and is large of frame. Throughout his long career, until recently, he was a man of great physical strength. He is of a genial, kindly, humorous nature, a good friend, an interesting companion, loyal and true-hearted.

Solon M. Hazen was born in Denmark, New York, August 11, 1829. He belonged to that class of patriotic young men who came from the eastern states in the year 1857 as followers of John Brown in his efforts to save Kansas

from the curse of human slavery. After spending the winter of 1857-1858 in Brown county, Kansas, he, in 1858, with George W. Stark, another anti-slavery enthusiast, came to the new territory of Nebraska and settled on land in Rockford township, this county. He built a log cabin on his land, broke out several acres of fertile Mud creek bottom, and remained here until after the presidential election of 1860, when he returned to New



SOLON M. HAZEN
Pioneer resident of Blue Springs

York and resumed his occupation as a school teacher. He also purchased a newspaper, the *Journal-Republican*, at Lowville, New York, which he conducted for three years. Later he purchased the Watertown *Herald*, at Watertown, New York, and he continued as its publisher for several years. On the 24th day of December, 1863, he married Miss Priscilla Ann Vary, and in 1868 he returned to Nebraska, which was then a state, and settled permanently in Blue Springs. Shortly after his return he opened a general store at the corner of Hazen and Scott streets, and he continued for many years in business in that location. In 1861 he surveyed for Robert A. Wilson the original townsite of Blue Springs, and later he was elected one of the county commissioners of Gage county, an office which he held for some years. In 1884 he was elected to represent the people of Gage county in the state legislature, where, as a member of several important committees, he rendered distinguished services to his constituents and to the people of the state. He served his community as justice of the peace, postmaster, member of the school board, member of the council and in other capacities.

Mr. Hazen was a tall, distinguished-looking man, slow of speech, deliberate in judgment, and very considerate of the rights and feelings of others. There were no better men than Solon M. Hazen. This historian has the kindest of recollections of this good, benevolent man. When still a mere child and at a time when there were no schools accessible to him the writer got his first lessons in numbers by the flickering light of a chip fire, in the open air, from Solon M. Hazen.

Dr. Levi Anthony was, next to Dr. Herman M. Reynolds, the earliest practising physician of reputation and standing in Gage county. He was born at Washington, Jackson county, Ohio, November 27, 1835, but from October 14, 1846, to the fall of 1849 he lived in Jackson county, Missouri. He then moved to Mills county, Iowa, and took up the study of medicine under Dr. Barrett, and he entered upon the practice of his profession in Iowa. In 1859 he moved to Peru, Nebraska, and, forming a partnership with Dr. Perry at that western outpost of civilization, he practiced his profession there until 1861. While at Peru he met Robert A. Wilson, of Blue Springs, who pursuaded him to change his location and offered to deed, and did afterward deed, to him forty acres of land in the vicinity of Blue Springs on the condition of his making such change. No time was lost by the Doctor, who was an active, decisive man, in reaching his new location. Here he soon became widely known as a physician of skill and ability. His practice extended over a large portion of Gage county and several of the surround-

ing counties. He made his professional calls mostly on horseback, carrying his medicine-chest in large, double, leather saddle-bags, strapped to the back of his saddle. He was a most familiar figure and on account of his genial nature was a welcome visitor in the homes of the early settlers. In 1867 he moved to Beatrice and engaged successfully in the practice of his profession there, but in the latter part of 1869 the Doctor located on a homestead three-quarters of a mile south of the present city of Wilber. He acquired title to this land and made it his home for several years. When the village of Wilber was laid out as a town, in 1872, by Charles D. Wilber and Jacob Mooney, Dr. James Paddock, a young physician, came there seeking a location. Finding Dr. Anthony already on the field, he sought and was able to form a copartnership with him, and for many years these two pioneer physicians practiced their profession together at Wilber, Dr. Anthony living upon his homestead until age admonished him that the period for rest had come.

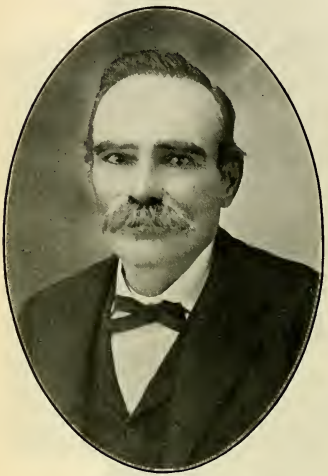
Dr. Levi Anthony

He then purchased a residence in Wilber and lived there till December 4, 1891, when he passed away, at the age of sixty-six years.

In the autumn of 1864, following the Indian outbreak on the Little Blue river, in August of that year, a company of militia was raised, consisting of about one hundred men and composed exclusively of residents of Gage and Pawnee counties. Dr. Anthony was

this marriage twelve children were born, Nancy Elizabeth, Hannah Retta, Mary A., Isaac T., Martha E., Eliza J., Sarah C., Orpha J., Lydia A., John F., George S., and Leon J. His wife and two of these children died before his own death occurred.

In his early life Dr. Anthony was an active member of the Methodist church. He later became affiliated with the Church of Latter



FRANCIS M. GRAHAM

MRS. HANNAH RETTA GRAHAM

active in this movement and was elected second lieutenant of the company, which went into service in September, 1864. It was stationed at Buffalo ranch, on the Little Blue river, at the foot of Nine Mile Ridge, on the old Oregon Trail, until Feburary, 1865, when it was mustered out of service. The company performed guard duty along the old trail, protecting the overland stage, emigrants and commercial travel each way from its stockade for a distance of forty miles.

When a very young man Dr. Anthony married Meriba Troth, October 4, 1846. To

Day Saints, at Wilber. Dr. Anthony was below average stature, was endowed with an alert mind, was genial, witty and possessed other qualities which made him a pleasant companion and a welcome visitor everywhere.

Francis M. Graham has been so long a resident of Blue Springs that few are living now who remember the time when he was not a citizen of that place. Some time prior to his arrival at Blue Springs, he had made his home with Rebecca Tyler, at Richmond, Nemaha county, Kansas, and when she sold

out there and moved to Blue Springs, in the summer of 1859, he came with her, being then a youth of fifteen summers. They were much attached to each other and the relation of mother and son practically existed between them until her death. Until his marriage, in 1865, her home was his.

Mr. Graham was born November 2, 1844, in Vermillion parish, Louisiana. His foster mother, Rebecca Tyler, was a southern woman. He was the son of Samuel Graham and Martha (Johnson) Graham. When quite small he was taken to Missouri to live, then to Kansas and then to Blue Springs, Nebraska. In 1865 he married Retta Anthony, the second daughter of Dr. Levi Anthony, and these worthy people have ever since made Blue Springs their home. Both are highly respected and useful members of society. They have reared a large and interesting family and are spending their declining years with their many friends, amid the surroundings of their early days. With Robert A. Wilson and perhaps one or two members of the James H. Johnson family, they are all that is left of that heroic company that created Blue Springs from a prairie waste.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham are open-hearted, friendly people whose lives are an open book to be read by all.

CHAPTER XXIV

WYMORE

The city of Wymore is located at the confluence of Big Indian creek and the Big Blue river, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company across southern Nebraska, from Chicago to Denver. Here also the branch line of this company from Omaha to Concordia, Kansas, via Lincoln and Beatrice, intersects the main Denver line, imparting to the city of Wymore the characteristics of a railway center. From its beginning the city has constituted a division for the Burlington Railroad; here are found the company's roundhouse, machine and repair shops, station building and numerous other structures required at a railway division point. Here also are found the headquarters of the division officials, and the various accessories necessary to the proper operation of the railroad. Wymore is the second largest municipal corporation in Gage county and is the most important and best city of its population in southeastern Nebraska. It is thirteen miles southeast of Beatrice, joins the city of Blue Springs to the north, and is located in the midst of a wealthy, prosperous farming community.

The founding of Wymore dates from the construction of the main line of the Burlington Railroad upon which it is located. At the time of its origin the situation in Nebraska was such as to invite railroad building on a large scale throughout the eastern two-thirds of the state. The main line of the Union Pacific Railway through central Nebraska had proved a surprising success as a factor in the settlement and development of all the territory tributary to it. By successive purchases and consolidations with other lines the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company had, by 1870, acquired a line of railway from Chicago, Illinois, to Pacific Junction, opposite Plattsmouth, Nebraska. The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company in Nebraska had been incorporated May 12, 1869, and in July of that year began the construction of a line of railway from Plattsmouth to Kearney Junction, Nebraska, on the Union Pacific, near where the city of Kearney is located. Several years after the completion of this route, the company was consolidated with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, under date of the 26th day of July, 1880, having at that time 836 miles of trackage in southeastern Nebraska, including a railroad bridge across the Missouri river at Plattsmouth and two miles of trackage at Pacific Junction. Amongst its other activities it had constructed, in 1878, a line of railway from Hastings to Red Cloud, and thence up the Republican valley, projected to Denver. In 1871 it had also constructed a line of railway from Crete, on its main line between Plattsmouth and Kearney Junction, to Beatrice. In 1879 the Union Pacific Railway Company, then described as the Omaha & Southwestern, had built its present line of railway from Marysville, Kansas, as far as Beatrice, via Blue Springs and the Otoe Indian Agency, which was projected to a junction with its main line at Valley, via Lincoln. Almost the entire state, and particularly the South Platte country and that portion of central Nebraska which was then tributary to the Union Pacific Railway lines, was in a ferment of activity. Immigration was rushing in, following the rails, at an unheard of rate; the prairies were disappearing under the settlers' plows; in every direction

towns and villages were springing up as if by magic; and everywhere in the state the railways were taxed to the uttermost to meet the demands of the ever increasing population.

Moreover the local situation by 1879 was such as to promote the increase of railway trackage in Gage county, and particularly in the southern portion. Since its completion, Beatrice had been the terminus of the Crete branch of the Burlington road. In 1877 the western portion of the Otoe and Missouri Indian lands had been placed upon the market and quickly sold to actual settlers, as by law required. This splendid tract of fertile lands was without railway facilities nearer than Beatrice or, later, than Blue Springs. Under these circumstances, it created no surprise when, in March, 1880, a party of Burlington surveyors arrived in Blue Springs from the west. They had carried a projected line of railway from Red Cloud down the Republican river to Hardy, Nuckolls county; thence across country to the head waters of Rose creek, in Jefferson county, crossed the Little Blue river at the confluence of these streams; led up historic Rock creek to the head waters of Big Indian creek; followed down the valley of that stream to its junction with the big Blue river, and, crossing the river, led away eastward to an intersection with the Atchison & Nebraska at Table Rock, and still on down the Big Nemaha to the Missouri, St. Joseph, northern Missouri, western Illinois, Chicago.

This ambitious and most successful plan of railroad building contemplated the extension of the Crete-Beatrice branch to a junction with the east and west main line. When it became evident that these lines of railway were to be pushed to immediate completion the southern half of Gage county seethed with excitement and eager anticipation. The question of greatest concern was the location of the junction, since it was evident that at that point would be developed a city of importance. Blue Springs was of course ardently hoping to become the center of all this railroad activity and to profit by securing the location of the junction of the two lines of railway. Unfortunately, and to this day to the regret of those who love it, these expectations were not to be realized. Over-confidence in her position and importance at that particular juncture in her affairs, prevented the consummation of her hopes.

The following narrative of the origin of Wymore and its early history was prepared for this work by Charles M. Murdock, who has been a citizen of that city since its founding, and who as a right-of-way agent for the Burlington Railroad Company, and at the time a citizen of Blue Springs, writes from an intimate knowledge of the facts:

"In the fore part of May, 1880, R. O. Phillips, secretary of the Lincoln Land Company, and some of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad officials came to Blue Springs and made an arrangement with S. M. Hazen, C. W. Hill, and others in Blue Springs, for a half interest in about two hundred acres of land in sections 17 and 18, township 2 north, of range 7 east of the 6th principal meridian, surrounding where the depot at Blue Springs now stands, and to locate a depot, and not lay out or build any conflicting town interest within five miles of the depot at Blue Springs. Several business men in Blue Springs agreed to purchase from five to ten acres of the Hazen and Hill lands and pay them a stated price per acre. Then they would donate (to the Lincoln Land Company) a half-interest in the tracts they had purchased, in order to share the burden with Hazen and Hill. This arrangement was agreed to and seemed to be definitely settled. But within sixty days some of the parties who had agreed to purchase from five to ten acres of the Hazen and Hill lands went back on what they had agreed to do. They claimed the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company would put in the depot at Blue Springs regardless of whether they got a half-interest in the Hazen and Hill lands or not. R. O. Phillips, secretary of the Lincoln Land Company, and A. B. Smith, townsite surveyor, came to Blue Springs and tried to close the deal, but could not do it. They then had options of purchase taken on part

of the southeast quarter of section 21, southwest quarter of section 22, northwest quarter of section 27 and northeast quarter of section 28, township 2 north, of range 7 east, where the Burlington surveyed line crossed the Union Pacific tracks,—a move that looked very discouraging to some of the observing people in and around Blue Springs.

"Samuel Wymore then owned the northeast quarter of section 20, Blue Springs township, which joined the section in which the city was located. When he learned that R. O. Phillips, for the Lincoln Land Company, had procured options of purchase on lands east of the Big Blue river, he offered to donate a half-interest in the west half of his quarter section, which on the north joined the townsite of Blue Springs and which was crossed by the Burlington right-of-way leading eastward, if the railroad company would erect and maintain a depot on his land or at the junction of the two lines on the southeast quarter of section 20, joining his land on the south, and he signed a contract to that effect. I then went to the southeast part of Marshall county, Kansas, to see Owen R. Jones, who then owned the last-named quarter section of land, together with the north half of the northeast quarter of section 29. I took his contract for the right-of-way over the southeast of section 20 and any extra right-of-way that might be required in the construction of the railroad across or upon that tract of land. He said the railroad company ought to buy his land; I asked him his price, and he said twenty dollars per acre. He and his wife signed a memorandum contract agreeing to convey to R. O. Phillips the above described land, 240 acres, for the sum of $4,800. I sent the memorandum contracts of Samuel Wymore and Owen R. Jones to Mr. Phillips at Lincoln, Nebraska, and wrote to A. E. Touzalin what could be done with Wymore and Jones. Touzalin and Phillips were anxious to get the location at Blue Springs adjusted, and to gain time I procured, at their request, an extension of the Wymore and Jones contracts to September 15, 1880.

"But the Blue Springs location was not definitely settled, and Mr. Touzalin, the general manager of the Burlington road, and other officials arranged to come to Blue Springs, and on September 17, 1880, Mr. Touzalin; George W. Holdrege, general superintendent; Tobias Castor, superintendent of right-of-way; Superintendent T. E. Calvert, and other Burlington Railroad officials came to Blue Springs from Beatrice over the Union Pacific line, in a special car. They arranged for a meeting with the Blue Springs people that evening. At the meeting the subject was fully discussed and the Blue Springs people asked for time to enable them to talk the matter over that night, and at nine o'clock the next morning they reported that they would not accept the proposition.

"Wymore and Jones were both present at the above described meeting. A deal with them was closed September 18, 1880, and it was definitely settled that a depot would be built at the junction on the southeast quarter of secion 20, township 2 north, range 7 east, Gage county, Nebraska. In the latter part of December, 1880, the line was extended from Beatrice to the junction, and General Superintendent Holdrege and other officials rode down to the junction over their own new line, in a special car, January 5, 1881.

"April 7, 1881, Mr. Phillips, secretary of the Lincoln Land Company, and Anselmo B. Smith, the company's townsite surveyor, began the survey of the townsite at the junction of the two lines of railway. A. E. Touzalin, general manager of the Burlington lines, named the town Wymore, after the late Samuel Wymore."

Mr. Murdock was selected by the Lincoln Land Company, an organization which every old settler will remember as having greatly influenced to its own profit the location and disposal of townsites along the lines of the Burlington Railroad system in the early history of Nebraska, to handle the company's interest at Wymore. The plat of the original town of Wymore was filed for record in the office of the register of deeds at Beatrice, May 21, 1881, by which time Mr. Murdock

had sold twenty lots in the townsite, upon which buildings were being erected, and within sixty days after the recording of the plat there were sixty business houses and residences erected in the new town of Wymore. Among the first to build were David Greenslate, who erected a hotel forty by forty-four feet, and two store buildings; J. Pisar, a business house twenty by thirty feet; J. Wazab, a business house twenty-four by thirty-six feet; Charles Wachtel, H. M. Leach, of deeds May 21, 1881. It comprised a part of the east half of section 20; it has been greatly augmented by additions, the most important of which are Ashby's Addition and Wymore's Addition, on the north and west; Summit and Railroad Additions, on the east; Hoag's, Hinkle's, and Scott's Additions, on the south and west. With these additions the city now occupies a part of sections 19, 20, 29, and 30.

The business district of the city is largely

NIAGARA AVENUE, WYMORE

R. C. Welch, A. J. McClain, T. E. Cone, W. Shestak, J. Miles, M. H. Gow, L. W. Allgire, A. V. S. Saunders, David McGuire, John Vesley, F. R. Siltz, William Baxendale, P. Sullivan, H. S. Glenn, E. P. Reynolds, Sr., (hotel); James A. Myer, E. C. Pusey, H. A. Greenwood, W. H. McClelland, J. Casey, G. W. Rummel, Washburn Brothers (lumber yard); H. A. Kingsbury (lumber yard); J. S. Johnson, Joseph Grimes, O. J. King, J. D. Gallagher, J. H. Ake, George Noll, S. P. Lester (livery stable); F. J. Greer (elevator), and others.

The plat of the original townsite of Wymore was filed for record in the office of the register

confined to the original townsite. Niagara avenue, running north to Blue Springs, is the principal business street. It is a wide, beautiful thoroughfare, and most of the business houses upon it are substantial, two-story, brick structures.

A United States government postoffice was established in the village of Wymore, October 27, 1881, with George F. Walker as postmaster. The citizens of Wymore are supplied with free mail delivery, employing two city carriers, while the rural population tributary to the city is reached by the free-delivery service of the postoffice department.

An interesting incident in the early history

of Wymore was the construction and operation of a street-railway line from the Burlington station to the Union Pacific station at Blue Springs. It was a horse-car line and was built by E. P. Reynolds and his sons J. H. and Ben Reynolds, railroad contractors with headquarters at Wymore, who had completed a number of contracts for the Burlington Railroad Company on the main line from the Missouri river to Denver. This car line was carried across the Burlington right-of-way by an overhead bridge, thirty feet in width, on Ashby avenue. It was operated from 1882 till about 1892, when it was abandoned.

From the beginning Wymore grew rapidly in population and wealth. It was an ambitious and aggressive rival of Beatrice, the county seat. By 1883 it had acquired a population of approximately two thousand souls. The federal census of 1890 gave it 2420 inhabitants; that of 1900, 2626; and that of 1910, 2613. In the year 1893 those who guided its destinies conceived it possible to divide Gage county and erect a new county out of the south half, to be known as Blaine county, with Wymore as its county seat. Proper steps were taken by these enthusiasts to bring the matter to a vote at the November election. A very spirited and splendid canvass was made by the Wymoreans. Beatrice of course entered warmly into the contest, and during the latter part of the summer and early fall of 1883 a vigorous campaign was waged on the question of county division. At the election, 1332 votes were polled for division and 2801 against the project. It is to the lasting credit of Wymore that she gracefully accepted this result and, without murmur or complaint, good-naturedly has continued to play the part of the second most important city in the splendid county of Gage.

On October 25, 1881, Horace A. Greenwood, who had formerly lived at Red Oak, Iowa, established the first bank in Wymore. The following year Benjamin Burch, his son John C. Burch and M. A. Southwick came to Wymore for the purpose of engaging in the banking business and were about to start a new bank when Mr. Greenwood sold them his institution and retired for the time being from the banking business. The Bank of Wymore, under the management of its new proprietors, did a flourishing business for more than ten years, but during the great financial panic which began in 1893 and lasted for several years, the bank was forced out of business and passed into the hands of a receiver. About the time the Bank of Wymore was purchased by the Burches and Southwick, a brick bank building was erected by Joseph R. Dodds on the corner south of the Touzalin Hotel, that being the first brick bank building in Wymore, and the Citizens Bank was established in it by Elisha P. Reynolds and sons. Some years afterward this became the property of Samuel Wymore and E. C. Wilcox, with E. C. Wilcox as cashier and as the one in principal charge of the bank's fortunes. About the time of the financial stringency above referred to this bank liquidated its obligations and ceased to exist. Succeeding these two early ventures in banking, the First National Bank of Wymore was founded by Horace A. Greenwood and others, and, probably about the same time, the Farmers & Merchants Bank came into existence. These are both exceptionally strong financial institutions for a town of the population of Wymore and each possesses a fine bank building. They are owned and conducted by men of character and standing in the community and meet the ordinary demands for banking resources in a way that leaves nothing to be desired. J. A. Rueling is president of the First National; G. L. Stephenson, vice-president; John S. Jones, cashier; and D. K. Windle, assistant cashier. Sherman Taylor is president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank; W. A. Dawson, vice-president; F. E. Lefferdink, cashier; A. L. Baker and C. F. Stillwell, assistant cashiers.

In addition to its banks Wymore is well supplied with elevators, lumber and coal yards, garages, hotels, implement houses, restaurants, general stores, grocery stores, hardware stores, drug stores, jewelry establishments, photograph galleries, and every kind

of business establishment to be found in cities of its population and class in the west.

The city obtains its water from the springs of its nearby neighbor, Blue Springs, and owns its own water system. It is well lighted by electrical current from the Holmesville Mill & Power Company.

The visitor to Wymore is always impressed by the extensive yards and shops of the Burlington Railroad Company, where hundreds of men are daily employed. The monthly distribution of wages by the company to its employes at this divisional point has been a constant and never-failing source of prosperity to the business men of the city. At present the railroad company employes 135 men in its mechanical department, 371 in its operating department, and 46 officers and clerks — a total of 552 employes of the Burlington Railroad at Wymore.

No city of its population in the state approaches Wymore in the number, acreage and beauty of its public parks. The public-park system for the city was first agitated several years ago, by Hon. A. D. McCandless, a lawyer of distinction in the Gage county bar. With intelligent persistence worthy of the cause, he has allowed no opportunity to pass for urging upon the citizens of the city and upon those in authority the desirability of adopting a system of public parks which should be more than commensurate with the immediate needs and resources of the city. Great success has crowned his unselfish and altruistic efforts. To his credit, and to the credit of those associated with him in his fine, patriotic labor, there are now eight public parks in the city of Wymore. They are as designated in the following paragraphs.

Arbor State Park consists of thirty-three acres of land in the northeast quarter of section 20, formerly known as the old Fair Ground. It was named Arbor State Park "in recognition of the loyalty of the Arbor State newspaper to the interests and upbuilding of the city of Wymore in the past quarter of a century, and of the editor of said paper for his years of faithful service as the highest office in said city, and his zealous work for the park system of said city."

McCandless Park comprises blocks 25 and 26 of Ashby's Addition to the city of Wymore, with the street lying between the two blocks, which was vacated in order to become a part of the park. It was named in honor of A. D. McCandless and in recognition of his successful work in planning and securing an attractive public parking system for the city.

Furnas Park consists of the south half of block 8 and the north half of block 9 in the original town of Wymore and the street lying between these two parcels of land, which was vacated by the city council for the purpose of being added to the park.

Rawlings Park is block 31 of the original town of Wymore and bears the name of Rawlings Park in recognition of one of its most prominent and enterprising citizens, M. L. Rawlings, who has served three terms as mayor of the city of Wymore and has been otherwise active and useful for many years in the affairs of the city.

Riverside Park lies on the east bank of the Big Blue river, between the wagon road on Bennett street and the Burlington Railroad bridge across the river.

Horseshoe Park lies south of Indian creek and west of what is known as the Marysville road, and is the property of the Lincoln Land Company.

High School Park is that portion of the high-school grounds which has been incorporated into the parking system of Wymore.

Taylor Park comprises a considerable tract of ground lying north and west of the right-of-way of the Burlington Railroad Company, in the immediate neighborhood of the depot building.

In 1916 the public-spirited citizens of Wymore began agitation for a free public library. Application was made to the great philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, for an appropriation out of his many millions for the erection of a library building. This magnanimous builder of libraries readily donated to the city the sum of $10,000 to be used exclusively for a building, on condition that a suitable site be furnished by the citizens of Wymore and that the city authorities should annually levy a public tax sufficient to sustain the library.

These conditions have been fully complied with. The library is located on the southeast corner of block 26 of Wymore's Addition, immediately west of Neuman's store, on the southeast corner of the block. The plans and specifications were furnished by Richard W. Grant, architect, of Beatrice, and at this writing the building is complete except for the placing of a furnace.

The first Episcopal church service was held in Wymore by Rev. T. O'Connell, in what is known as the Honeymoon school-house, in the fall of 1881. In March, 1884, a service was held by the Rev. C. L. Fulforth, rector of the Episcopal church at Beatrice, at which this being dedicated as a house of worship, by Bishop Worthington, April 15, 1889. The church has grown in strength and usefulness from the first day and is today one of the live, virile religious organizations of the city.

The parish of St. Mary's Catholic church was established in 1882, a pastoral residence being erected that year and later a frame church building. The priest first in charge was the Rev. A. C. Rausch, who continued his labors until 1889, when the Rev. J. C. Freeman took charge; he remained at the head of the parish until his death, in 1915. He was succeeded by Father D. J. Cronin, who is now in charge of the parish.

preliminary steps were taken for the organization of a parish in Wymore. A petition was prepared and was addressed to the bishop of the diocese, requesting such action. It was signed by eighteen persons, of whom eight were communicants of the church. This request was granted, and on August 17, 1884, the parish was organized under the name of St. Luke's. On the following 13th day of September, with Bishop Worthington officiating, the holy communion service of the church was celebrated for the first time in Wymore. A mission organization was adopted, with Richard Whitten as warden. On the 10th day of October, 1888, steps were taken toward the building of a church by the congregation. A lot for that purpose was donated by the Lincoln Land Company, the Bishop contributed $800 and a building was erected,

The Catholic organization owns fine church properties in Wymore, consisting of an entire block of ground adjoining the high-school block, upon which is situated the church building and a new pastoral residence, of two stories.

The Christian church was organized in 1887, by Elder Bear, of Tecumseh, the services first being held in Brownwell Hall and other places. In 1896 the present church edifice was erected. Services are regularly maintained by the church and the organization is an active factor in the social and religious life of the city.

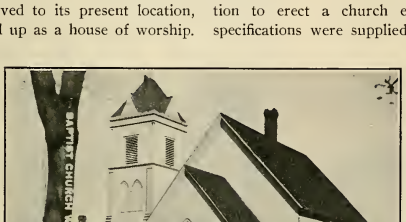
The first church organized in Wymore was the Missionary Baptist church. The organization took place September 14, 1881. Services were maintained at various places in the city until 1886, when the congregation built a frame church building, under the pastorate

of Rev. A. H. Law. This building was afterward sold, and the Baptists acquired by purchase their present church, from the Congregationalists.

Since its organization a good Sunday school has been maintained and the regular services of the church have gone constantly forward. The membership of this church is quite strong and it is an influential factor in the life of the city.

About 1907 the Calvanistic Welsh church was organized in Wymore. A building was purchased and moved to its present location, where it was fitted up as a house of worship.

at her suggestion, a subscription list was started for funds to be used in purchasing a suitable site for a church building. The sum of one hundred dollars was immediately subscribed by her and her children and subscriptions continued to be taken until enough money was on hand to purchase a lot and a half in the most desirable residence portion in the city of Wymore on which to erect a church building, where the present splendid house of worship now stands. A movement was then started to secure enough money by subscription to erect a church edifice. Plans and specifications were supplied by the Methodist



First Baptist Church, Wymore

A Sunday school and church services have since been regularly maintained.

The Free Methodist church has had an existence in Wymore since 1887, maintaining a pastor the most of the time and its organization all the time. It has a new frame church building, located in the northwest part of the city.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in Wymore July 20, 1883, with the Rev. C. M. Hollopeter as pastor. The church services and Sunday school were first held in Livsey's Opera House, later in the Newbranch Hall and in what is now known as the Baptist church. The first effort to secure a church building came from Mrs. William Winter, in 1885. At a family gathering at which her seven sons and two daughters were present,

Church Extension Society and approved by the local board of trustees for a structure to cost approximately six thousand dollars. The building was begun in 1888 and in the following year it was completed, and dedicated, by Bishop Joyce, to the worship of God. Including the grounds, the property cost about thirteen thousand dollars. A considerable indebtedness rested upon the church, which accumulated during the hard times following 1893, until it finally amounted to $4,700. Heroic efforts were made by the pastor in charge, the Rev. A. B. Whitmer, to secure through subscriptions a sum of money sufficient to liquidate this indebtedness. He was aided by Dr. Huntington, the presiding elder of the church, and at a meeting in 1900, in the presence of a large and rejoicing congregation, it

fell to the lot of the Rev. John W. Swan to commit to the flames the mortgage which had hitherto rested upon the property.

Since that date the church has erected on lots adjoining the church property, which it purchased from R. W. Laflin, a fine parsonage, which cost $4,250. Thus through years of toil, patience, sacrifice and self-denial, the Methodists of Wymore have succeeded in securing a beautiful and permanent church building and a roomy, homelike parsonage. The congregation is large and in a flourishing condition. Since Dr. Hollopeter's time, the following named ministers have served the church: O. P. Light, C. W. Abbott, A. B. Whitmer, E. F. Gates, and O. T. Winslow.

In the neighborhood of section 16, Wymore township, are found two attractive country churches, as shown on page 269.

In the fall of 1881, a subscription school was started in Wymore, with Miss Ormsby and Miss Mitchell as teachers. The school was held in Johnson's Hall, but as this proved too small to accommodate the attendance, another room was secured, and S. B. Bowdish was employed as principal.

Early in 1882 steps were taken to detach Wymore and its additions from the Blue Springs school district, and in March of that year the city of Wymore was erected into a separate school district and numbered 114. On the organization of the district, W. H. McClelland was elected its director. He proceeded at once to take an enumeration of the district and, incidentally, a census of the population. On March 17, 1882, he reported the number of families then in Wymore to be 224; number of inhabitants, 1,280; and number of children of school age, 375.

The schools of Wymore have flourished from the beginning and the liberal-minded citizens of the city have seen to it that ample school facilities were available. The city now possesses two brick ward-school buildings of two rooms each, and a handsome, two-story, brick high-school building, containing ten rooms. The district employs seventeen teachers and the high school offers a four years' course of study, with normal training. The pupils enrolled in the schools of Wymore number 683.

The social and benevolent orders of Wymore include: Coleman Post, No. 115, Department of Nebraska Grand Army of the Republic, organized at Wymore October 7, 1882, and ever since remaining in good standing; Coleman's Women's Relief Corps, No. 65, Department of Nebraska, organized at Wymore June 12, 1888, and ever since maintaining its good standing; Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, organized April 19, 1883; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 105, installed February 8, 1883; Rebekah Lodge, No. 69, organized September 23, 1891; Abergeldie

Castle, No. 34, Royal Highlanders; and the usual number of fraternal and benevolent orders in cities of the population of Wymore.

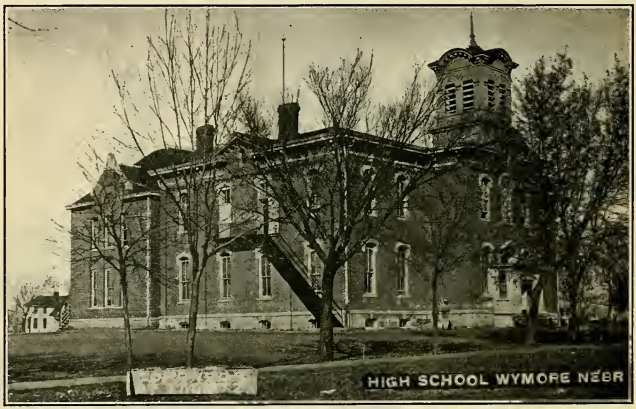
So rapid has been the growth of Wymore from the beginning that at a very early period of its history the necessity for some form of municipal government had become very obvious. With characteristic energy and foresight, a movement was inaugurated early in 1882, almost within a year after the founding of the city, to effect village organization under the statute which then provided that all unincorporated towns and villages in Nebraska having over two hundred and less than fifteen hundred inhabitants might be incorporated as villages. On the 22d day of June, 1882, a petition was filed before the board of commissioners of Gage county, praying for the incorporation of Wymore as a village under this statute and suggesting as suitable persons for village officials E. Hutchins to be mayor; W. H. Ashby, clerk; E. C. Wilcox, treasurer; George W. Mechling, police judge; Ben Reynolds, engineer; C. F. Washburn and E. C. Pusey, councilmen for the first ward, and S. S. Darling and A. J. Davis, councilmen for the second ward. The prayer of this petition was readily granted by the county commissioners and these recommendations approved. The organization of Wymore as a village, under the law, immediately followed.

Two Rural Churches near Wymore

Village government was continued in Wymore until 1884, when it was incorporated as a city of the second class, having more than fifteen hundred and less than twenty-five thousand population, as provided by law. The

first city officials were: Daniel McGuire, mayor; Thomas D. Cobbey, clerk; E. C. Wilcox, treasurer; A. D. McCandless, city attorney; W. H. Carmichael, marshal; James Pasco, engineer; J. M. Tout and O. P. Newbranch, councilmen for first ward, and, after the resignation of Newbranch, S. H. Craig; for the second ward, E. Snuffin and D. H. Schmitz.

Wymore appears to have always been an inviting field for newspaper men. In May, 1879, Charles M. Murdock had established at Blue Springs a newspaper called the *Reporter*, largely as an advertising medium for the sale of real estate, but on the 22d day of June, 1881, he removed his printing establishment to Wymore, and thereafter for many years the Wymore *Reporter* was an important factor in the settlement and development of the city. This was the first newspaper in Wymore. In May, 1881, Joseph R. Dodds, a veteran of the Civil war, came from Burlington, Iowa, to Wymore and became immediately active in its affairs. He erected the two-story, brick building on the corner of Nebraska street and Blue River avenue, directly south of the Touzalin Hotel, where later the Citizens bank was established. On the 12th day of May, 1882, from the basement of this old building, Mr. Dodds sent forth the first issue of the Wymore *Eagle*. In the fall of that year he purchased from Ashby & Scott the *Gage County Leader*, a newspaper which had been founded shortly after Murdock had brought the *Reporter* to Wymore, and this he consolidated with the *Eagle*. A little later he merged both names into the *Democrat*, bearing the following leg-



end: "Wymore and Blue Springs." Before his death, he ceased publishing the *Democrat* and began the publication of the *Arbor State*. This bright, newsy paper is now both a daily and a weekly, and is owned and ably edited by J. W. Ellingham. In 1882, with Benjamin Burch, his son John C. Burch, and W. H Southwick, John A. Weaver, a practical newspaper man, came to Wymore from Red Oak, Iowa. In conjunction with the younger Burch he established, the *Wymorean*, a weekly newspaper which has had a continuous existence from the date of its founding and which is well established, with a circulation exceeding two thousand copies. For thirty

years it has been very ably conducted by its present owner and publisher, J. M. Burnham.

Wymore is a city of many beautiful homes. The residence district lies west of Niagara avenue and is reached from the business district by ascending a gentle slope. It overlooks the beautiful valley of the Big Blue river on the north, east and south, and the valleys of Bills creek and Big Indian creek toward the west, and from almost every point presents a pleasing landscape. At an early day Elisha P. Reynolds and his sons, J. H. and Benjamin erected fine residences in this part of the city, and many others have since been erected. Here also are located the beautiful high-school grounds and a number of the churches.

CHAPTER XXV

INCORPORATED VILLAGES

ADAMS — BARNESTON — CLATONIA — CORTLAND — FILLEY — LIBERTY — ODELL — PICKRELL — VIRGINIA

ADAMS

As early as 1867 a postoffice was established in Adams township, called Laona. John Lyons was the first postmaster, the postoffice being at his home, a mile and one-half west of the present town of Adams. In 1873 the Atchison & Nebraska Railroad Company built its line of railway through Adams township from Atchison to Lincoln, and in May of that year John O. Adams, in conjunction with the railroad company, laid off the south half of the northeast quarter of section 27, into a townsite and it was named Adams. Village organization was deferred until March 10, 1892. The first board of village trustees comprised the following well known residents of that place, namely: Frank E. Whyman, Henry H. Norcross, W. C. Garrison, Nathaniel C. Shaw, and William C. Gray. They were duly qualified for office by James B. Shaw, justice of the peace. F. E. Whyman was elected first chairman of the village board, W. C. Gray the first secretary, and H. L. Watson was appointed the first marshal of Adams. One of the first ordinances passed prohibited "the sale, giving away, delivering or furnishing in any manner any spirituous, malt, vinous or intoxicating liquors within the village," an ordinance which has stood intact from the beginning. The open saloon never found a place to conduct business in Adams.

The town of Adams has flourished from the beginning. It was supported by an unusually intelligent, progressive and loyal class of citizens. Amongst them the Whyman family, who came overland from western Pennsylvania, consisting of the parents and twelve children; the Adams family and the Shaw family, of whom mention has already been made in this work in the chapter on the early settlers in this county; the Silas Bryson family, who came from Ohio by boat down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi and Missouri, consisting of the parents and fourteen robust sons and daughters, who have contributed ably to the making of the state of Nebraska; William Curtis, who was the fourteenth man to make homestead entry at the Brownville land office, and his family; H. J. Merrick, who is a veteran of the Civil war and who has proved a force in the upbuilding of the village; Byron P. Zuver, Stephen Disher, John Lyons, George and Alfred Gage, L. R. Horrum and his son, Dr. J. W. McKibbin, and many other residents of the town of Adams and vicinity.

In 1874 John O. Adams, the founder of the village, and William Curtis, built the first grain elevator, and Curtis the first store building erected in Adams. In 1874 a postoffice was established at Adams, Mrs. Hannah Noxon, who had been postmistress at Laona, was appointed postmistress and for many years she occupied that position, in a manner highly satisfactory to all patrons of the office, maintaining at the same time a general store in connection with the office. In 1880 J. H. Spellman erected a store building and put in a complete stock of goods. He continued business in this building for thirty years. In 1880 L. R. Horrum, who had taken a homestead near Adams in 1868, working in the meantime at his trade as a harnessmaker in

connection with his farm work, built a harness shop in Adams, and this he conducted until his death, in 1913, the business still being carried on by his son, George Horrum. The senior Horrum built the first brick business house in Adams. Dr. J. W. McKibbin, the first resident physician of Adams, located in the village in 1881, and has been in constant practice of his profession here since that time.

Early in the history of Adams, H. J. Merrick organized a patrons' coöperative company, with a capital stock of five hundred dollars, its object being the conducting of a general merchandise business. Stephen Disher became president of the company; H. J. Merrick, secretary; B. P. Zuver, manager. This was the pioneer business of Adams, it being established in June, 1874. From it has developed the Tourtelot-Barber Company, which conducts one of the best general stores anywhere to be found in a village of seven hundred inhabitants, the present population of Adams.

The grain business has been an active industry at Adams from the moment the railroad came. Many individuals and companies had helped develop it until finally the Central Granaries Company obtained control of the business. In 1908 this company sold its elevator to the Farmers Elevator Company, incorporated, with a capital stock of $10,000, held by two hundred farmers and business men of Adams and adjacent territory. J. B. Zuver was its first president, J. W. Campbell its first secretary, and J. B. Zuver its manager. The officers at present are: H. J. Merrick, president; Henry Bable, secretary; and J. B. Zuver, manager; capital and surplus, $40,000.

In 1905 W. E. Bryson and J. E. Miller erected a large, first-class flouring and feed mill, which was later sold to the Nebraska Corn Products Company, and was dismantled, the machinery being removed and the building sold to the Farmers Elevator Company.

The lumber business first operated at Adams was known as the Chicago Lumber Company, with A. Huyser, manager. This company was succeeded about 1880 by the Stewart, Chute Lumber Company and others, including M. J. Mitten, who is now engaged in that business.

The first bank at Adams was a private bank, owned by Messrs. Holber & Bauer, who began business in 1884. It was followed by the State Bank of Adams, in 1889; capital stock, $10,000. The board of directors under the original charter comprised W. P. Norcross, H. J. Merrick, J. W. McKibbin, B. P. Zuver, J. H. Spellman, W. W. Barnhouse, W. E. Bryson; — Norcross, president; McKibbin, vice-president; and Merrick, cashier. March 1, 1902, the controlling interest was purchased by C. S. Black and L. B. Howey, of the First National Bank of Beatrice, and F. B. Draper, of Lincoln, Nebraska, W. P. and H. H. Norcross retiring. Mr. Black became president and Mr. Draper the cashier, the capital stock being increased to $15,000. Directors: Black, Draper, Howey, Merrick, Barnhouse, McKibbin, and Bryson. In 1908 the bank was reorganized as the First National Bank, with a capital of $25,000. The former officers and board of directors were retained. The institution is a depositary of the Federal Reserve Bank.

In 1908 the Farmers' State Bank was organized, with a capital stock of $25,000. President, G. W. Meeker; vice-president, W. E. Bryson; cashier, Frank O'Neal. After some changes in management, a controlling interest of the capital stock was purchased, in 1917, by Mr. Christiansen and Frank M. Stapleton. Stapleton being the cashier and A. M. Replogle the vice-president.

The bank known as the Adams State Bank was organized with a capital stock of $20,000. Officers and directors: Chris Hennies, president; Frank Schoen, vice-president; Frank Grammann, cashier; F. H. Hennies, August Hoehne, Adolph Hoehne, Thale Tholen, directors. The three banks here named are all in flourishing condition, which indicates a prosperous and wealthy community.

In the spring of 1859, Mrs. Hannah Hicks Shaw invited the settlers with their children to meet at her home to study the Bible. A dozen of all ages responded. The older ones were taught by Miss Phoebe Gale, daughter

of George Gale, and the younger by Mrs. W. W. Silvernail (Rebbecca Shaw). Mrs. Shaw then visited Nebraska City and obtained second-hand Sunday-school supplies from Mr. W. L. Boydston, of the Methodist church of that place. From this lively root have sprung all the religious activities of Adams township. In 1861 D. H. Wheeler, representing the American Sunday School Union, came to the township for the purpose of establishing a Sunday school, but he found the work already advanced and in good hands. In 1861 and 1862 the school was held at a new school house in district No. 2, old Clay county, but continuing under the superintendency of Mrs. Shaw. In 1866 the school was held in a log house on what was known as Chambers' farm, and afterward at the Disher farm, now owned by S. B. Fraper; the superintendent was William Curtis. It was afterward held in a barn recently built by John Lyons, and in 1868 and 1869 again was held in the school house of district No. 2. In 1870 school district No. 30 was organized and a dug-out school-house was made on the land now a part of Adams village. In this place Matthew Weaverling (afterward, for three terms, county superintendent of schools of Gage county) taught the first school in that district. In 1871 a new frame building was erected one-half mile west of what is now the village of Adams and the Sunday school was transferred to it, where it remained until 1882, when it was transferred to the newly built Methodist Episcopal church, on the present high-school grounds in the village of Adams.

This had been a union Sunday school until this time, when the Presbyterians withdrew to their own newly built church, and organized as a denominational school, with W. C. Gray as superintendent. The remainder organized as a Methodist Episcopal school, with Silas Bryson as superintendent. In the early '70s the Baptists organized a Sunday school in school district No. 2, with J. H. Lynch and Charles Whyman as principal supporters.

The first sermon preached in Adams township was by Z. B. Truman, at the home of Stephen and Hannah Shaw, in November, 1859, followed in 1860 by Rev. Kindall, both Methodists. From this time until 1867 Rev. Luther Gibbs, a Baptist homesteader, served the people. In that year Rev. Leroy F. Britt, Methodist minister of Tecumseh, preached during the summer, and organized a class of seven persons, namely: William Curtis, Silas Bryson, Mrs. Clara Bryson, Mrs. Almira Lyons, Mrs. Letitia Adams, Mrs. Harriet Adams, Mrs. Robert Howard. Robert Howard was appointed leader. In 1868 Silas Bryson was elected leader, with Rev. George Paddock pastor in charge. In 1869-1870, Rev. A. L. Folden and Rev. J. H. Presson were pastors in charge, followed, in 1872, by T. A. Hull. In 1873-1874 J. H. Presson; 1875, H. P. Mann; 1876, N. W. Van Orsdal; 1877, T. A. Hull, who died in his chair while holding services in the Hooker school house; 1878, H. A. S. King; 1879, G. W. Walker; 1881, Isaac New — all were pastors of the Methodist congregation. Within these years the first Methodist Episcopal church was built and the congregation thereafter was served by J. W. Taylor, in 1883; B. C. Phillips, 1884-1885; J. S. Orr, 1886; M. C. Smith, 1887-1891; A. L. Folden, 1891 to 1894; J. J. Stannard, 1894-1898; Duke Slavins, 1899-1902, when the new church was built, at a cost of $10,000.

Rev. Mr. Wharton, a missionary Baptist, organized a church in 1869, with J. H. Lynch and wife, Charles Whyman and family, and others as its supporters.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized February 22, 1880, by Rev. George L. Little, of Omaha, assisted by Rev. A. B. Irwin, of Beatrice. William A. Gray and F. G. Dickinson were chosen as ruling elders. This church, in connection with its Sunday school, Christian Endeavor and other organized activities, has been a directive force in the development of the moral uplift of the community. Rev. W. I. Boole is the present pastor.

The Freewill Baptists and the Christian church each has an active organization, with Sunday schools and Christian Endeavor societies in connection therewith.

The following named societies were early organized in Adams: Independent Order of

Odd Fellows, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, Sons of Veterans, Woodmen of the World, Royal Highlanders, Independent Order of Good Templars, and others.

In November, 1905, the village board of trustees granted to E. J. Shaw and his successors, or assigns, the right to install an electric light and power plant, and this has been in constant operation since that date. In 1915 the village acquired control of this plant, enlarged its capacity and placed it on a modern basis, since which time it has been giving its patrons the best of service.

The Adams *Gazette*, Volume I, No. 1, was issued March 25, 1886, by W. H. Fitzgerald, and this was the beginning of newspaper enterprise in Adams. The paper soon passed into the hands of Mr. Snyder, who continued this publication until 1892, when M. D. Horham became editor and proprietor. In 1907 the present owner and publisher, E. W. Varner, purchased the plant and he has given to Adams and vicinity probably the best weekly newspaper now published in Gage county.

This brief summary of the origin, business interests, religious and social life of Adams was prepared in the main by Hon. Homer J. Merrick, whose life has been so long identified with the community of which he writes, and it modestly omits extended reference to the citizens of Adams and the country tributary to it. It is no exaggeration, nor is it fulsome praise, to state that no community in our county is more distinguished as possessing a large intellectual life and all those qualities and attributes of character which go to make up a loyal, enterprising and wholly reliable citizenship than the one of which he writes.

BARNESTON

The village of Barneston, one of the interesting and pretty villages of southern Gage county, stands on historic ground. It embraces within its boundaries the site of the ancient village of the Otoe Indians and their agency buildings, a location which serves as a perpetual reminder to the old settlers and their descendants of the original inhabitants of Gage county. Barneston is located on the Union Pacific Railway line from Valley, Nebraska, to Manhattan, Kansas, via Lincoln and Beatrice. It is named for Francis M. Barnes, who was a member of the original townsite company and who was affiliated by marriage with the Otoe Indian tribe, his wife being a half-blood Indian woman, a daughter of Andrew Drips. Mrs. Barnes was born November 15, 1827, in Bellevue, Nebraska, where her father was stationed as a representative of the American Fur Company. She was educated at the Convent of the Visitation, at Kaskaskia, Illinois, and in 1856, at Kansas City, Missouri, she became the wife of Francis M. Barnes. In 1859 they moved to the Territory of Nebraska, and later they settled near the Otoe and Missouri Indians in Gage county. As far as known, Mrs. Barnes is the oldest living native born Nebraskan.

The townsite of Barneston comprises the greater portion of the northwest quarter of section 18, township 1 north, range 8 east, while West Barneston, an addition to the original town, lies in the northeast quarter of section 13, township 1 north, range 7 east, where the railway line, sidetracks and station are located. The owners of the original townsite were F. M. Barnes, of Barneston; H. R. W. Hartwig, of St. Joseph, Missouri; I. N. Speer, of Hiawatha, Kansas; and H. L. Ewing, John Ellis, Charles O. Bates, and Alfred Hazlett, of Beatrice, Nebraska. The plat of the town of Barneston was filed in the office of the register of deeds of Gage county, May 17, 1884. The plat of West Barneston was filed on August 3, 1883. The larger portion of the business establishments of the village and nearly the entire residence district are in the original town of Barneston, which is a part of Liberty township. Some years ago, however, the county board annexed the quarter section on which the town is located to Barneston township for voting and other administrative purposes.

The surroundings of the village are romantically beautiful. Near by on the north is Wolf creek, a living, well timbered stream, and on the south is beautiful Plum creek, a

never-failing stream of water. Towards the west is the Big Blue river, and on every hand what was once a rolling prairie now shows cultivated, highly improved, thrifty farms. It is to the eastern part of the old Indian reservation what Odell is to the western part, with this difference, that about Barneston clings the romance of another race.

As early as 1873 there was a trading post at the Indian village where Barneston is now located. That year F. M. Barnes opened a store with a general stock of goods, near the agency buildings, which he maintained until the Indians removed to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), in 1881. In 1882, prior to the founding of Barneston village, he again established a store at this point, to accommodate land seekers and the early settlers on that part of the old Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation. The first merchant in Barneston after it was surveyed and platted was Patrick Rawley, who conducted a general merchandise store there until 1910; he now lives at Falls City, Nebraska. He was soon followed by A. G. Keyes, with a hardware store. The first district school-teacher at Barneston was a man named Harris. In 1883 he taught a school in the old Indian school building, a structure fifty by ninety feet, two stories in height. This building was located on the quarter-section of land just east of Barneston. It was erected by the United States government for the education of the Indian youths and maidens of the Otoe and Missouri Indian villages, and some years ago it was destroyed by fire.

The school district of Barneston was organized November 22, 1883, at the residence of William Tauer, and it has since been known as district No. 116. The Barneston district possesses at present a frame, two-story school house and the school district employs four teachers, with an enrollment of approximately ninety pupils. The course of study includes only two years of high-school work. Recently the district has been greatly augmented by being consolidated with districts Nos. 119, 121, 177, 136, and 137 into a county high school, with approximately one hundred and fifty pupils. It is planned to erect for the consolidated district a new school building in the village of Barneston, at a probable cost of $40,000, and when this building is completed there will be installed, with the usual grades, a high school providing four years' work.

A United States postoffice was early established in Barneston, with F. M. Barnes as the first postmaster. Those who have succeeded him are A. G. Keyes, Edwin Huddert, Jesse C. Wyatt, and Bertha Hablitzle, the present incumbent. Rural free delivery of mail is maintained at Barneston, the service now being performed by a single carrier.

The first physician in Barneston was Dr. C. S. Smith, who remained three years. Those who have followed him were Drs. Hinton, J. I. Gumaer, J. L. Kirby, U. D. Stone, G. W. Strough, F. J. Bachle, and F. J. Woods. All abandoned the field but Dr. Woods, who has pursued his calling in Barneston and vicinity so many years and so successfully that he has become not only a professional but a social and political force.

About the year 1884 James Craig opened a private bank in Barneston and he continued in business there until 1890. He was succeeded by the Bank of Barneston, incorporated, about 1890, by F. M. Barnes and C. M. Warren, of Barneston; John Ellis, Horace L. Ewing, W. F. King, and Harriet Ewing, of Beatrice; and W. Q. Bell, of Lincoln, Nebraska. This banking institution is still in existence, and is owned and officered by J. A. Spencer, president, and A. D. Spencer, cashier. Since 1903 the banking business at Barneston has been shared with the Commercial State Bank of that village. J. M. Howe is the president, and Henry Monfelt the cashier of the Commercial State Bank. Both banking institutions are in a flourishing condition.

In addition to the banks, Barneston has two general stores, a drug store, hardware store, grocery store, two restaurants, a hotel, two garages, a blacksmith shop, barber shop, lumber and coal yard, pump and plumbing establishment, two elevators, a meat market, and such other business concerns as one would ex-

pect to find in a village of like size and character.

The benevolent and other orders of the village consist of a lodge of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Chapter of the Eastern Star, camp of the Modern Woodmen of America, and organizations of the Royal Neighbors and Royal Highlanders.

In 1889 the Presbyterians erected a fairly good church building in Barneston, at a cost of $1,200, and they have since maintained a church organization in the village. The Catholics also have an organization there, their church edifice having been erected in 1892, at a cost of $1,800.

By the census of 1910, Barneston was given 228 inhabitants. Its population at present (1918) is approximately 300. In general appearance Barneston is a very neat, pretty, attractive town. Its business men are active, accommodating and public-spirited. Barneston has furnished members of the legislature, Hon. A. D. Spenser having served in both branches of that body.

Among those who have been prominent in shaping the destiny of Barneston and in the management of its affairs are F. M. Barnes, W. P. Wyatt, Matthew Weaverling, C. W. Warren, George Pace, A. L. Cook, Patrick Rawley, James Ryan, William Tauer, Joseph Guittard, Jesse C. Wyatt, Julius Vogel, A. G. Keyes, G. D. Barry, William Monfelt, A. D., Hugh, and J. A. Spencer, Edward Huddert, S. S. Ratcliff, Timothy Rawley, Dennis Sullivan, James Malisckv, John Wolken, Lon Turner, Harry Zook, John Anderson, Frederick Barnes, Jacob Gutbrot, and F. J. Woods.

CLATONIA

Tucked away in the northwest corner of the county is the substantial village of Clatonia, located on a creek of that name, in Clatonia township. The original townsite comprises a forty-acre tract, in sections 22 and 27. Henry Albert and J. H. Steinmeyer, both highly esteemed pioneer residents of the county, were the proprietors of Clatonia, and having caused the townsite to be surveyed and platted in the spring of 1892, they filed the plat for record in the office of the register of deeds, December 3, 1893. Some additions have been made to Clatonia and the townsite now includes about eighty acres of land. It is a station on the main line of the Rock Island Railway from Chicago to Denver, via Omaha, Lincoln, and Jansen. It is about twenty miles northwest of Beatrice and about the same distance southwest of Lincoln. Prior to the construction of this line of railroad and the founding of Clatonia the farmers of this section were without immediate market facilities for the produce of their lands, and Clatonia township and other portions of the northwest corner of the county divided their trade with Cortland, DeWitt, Wilber, and Crete; but since the founding of the village, that scope of country has been given an excellent market.

Trains began operating on the railway line in May, 1903, and Clatonia quickly grew into a thriving country village. It was incorporated as a village about 1893, with one of its founders, J. H. Steinmeyer, as chairman of the village board, and J. I. Moore as clerk. At present the village board is composed of the following well known Clatonians: E. J. Chittenden, president; J. E. McCormick, clerk; and C. A. Miller, J. H. Meyer, and H. Suders.

The first family to establish a residence in the village was that of Frank W. Jones, and Mr. Jones was also Clatonia's first postmaster. The first merchant in Clatonia was a Mr. Jacquith. The first child born in the village was Gladys Berkheimer. The first church was the German Methodist Episcopal, an organization which as early as 1871 had erected a church building on the tract of land which afterward became Clatonia. In 1903 the English-speaking Methodists organized a church and erected a house of worship.

About 1893 John H. and William Steinmeyer organized the Farmers' Bank of Clatonia, and about 1900 erected a substantial, brick, bank building, which it now occupies. Henry Albert is now president of this bank; J. H. Steinmeyer, vice-president; and E. J. Chittenden, cashier. Later the Steinmeyers built a substantial village inn, and in 1894 J.

H. Steinmeyer built a large grain elevator, which is now owned by the Farmers Elevator & Grain Company of Clatonia.

The school district of Clatonia was organized in 1894, at the house of Henry Albert. The district has a frame, two-story schoolhouse of three rooms, employs three teachers and has an enrollment of about sixty pupils. In addition to the usual eight grades it offers a two years' high-school course of study.

In addition to the various business and other interests here mentioned, Clatonia has two general stores, two hardware stores, a lumber yard, drug store, hotel, elevator, privately owned electric-lighting plant, two garages, a blacksmith shop, and such other business enterprises as are common in Nebraska villages of its population. The village also owns its waterworks system.

The postoffice, with Mr. G. M. Ludick as postmaster, gives rural free delivery to Clatonia patrons, a service performed by a single carrier.

Clatonia has a population of 180 by the federal census of 1910. It is substantially built, many of the business houses being of brick, and is the center of a large German-American neighborhood, some of whose members were pioneers in Gage county, — notably Henry Albert, J. H. Steinmeyer, Henry Steinmeyer, and William Steinmeyer.

CORTLAND

The village of Cortland is situated in Highland township, within a mile of the north line of the county. It is a station on the Union Pacific Railway line from Valley, Nebraska, to Manhattan, Kansas. The original townsite comprises the east half of the northeast quarter of section 11 in this township. The land was bought from Alfred Gale by Joseph H. Millard, of Omaha, in 1883, about the time of the construction of what was then known as the Omaha & Republican Valley Railroad, a branch then, as now, of the Union Pacific system. Millard caused the tract to be surveyed and platted and the plat was filed for record February 4, 1884. Mr. Millard,

who was afterward United States senator from Wisconsin, was at that time a director in the Union Pacific Railway Company. The station buildings and the railroad yards at Cortland are situated on this tract of land. The depot was built in the spring of 1884. A strip of land in section 12, east of the railroad right-of-way, platted in 1884 by the owner Frank H. Oberman, and Malone's Addition, on the north, also platted in 1884, have been added to the original townsite.

The first merchant in Cortland was Henry Spellman, who hauled lumber from Firth, in Lancaster county, and erected a building upon the townsite in the winter of 1883-1884, where he conducted a general merchandise store. In the spring of 1884 Wallingford & Masterman established a farm-implement store in Cortland, Downs & Hickman a general store, and Fred Wittstruck erected a building used by

him as a boarding house or hotel. In the winter of 1883-1884, L. A. Simmons, now sheriff of Lancaster county, erected the first residence on the townsite. Some of the early merchants in Cortland were LaSalle & Fisk, J. C. Warner and Kurtz Brothers, who conducted general stores; I. M. Scott, a hardware merchant; and Baum & Scott, druggists.

In its early history Cortland acquired banking facilities, James Scanlon and J. H. Ballard having established the Bank of Cortland about 1885. They were succeeded by Jacob Bond. During the great panic of 1893 this bank failed; but later Thomas Burling reopened it, and after conducting it for some time he was succeeded by his son, F. A. Burling. Recently the bank has been sold to R. A. Nickell. About 1912 the Farmers State Bank of Cortland was organized, with C. P. Potts, president, and E. L. Pothast, cashier. Both of these banks are well patronized and doing a lucrative business.

A postoffice was established in Highland township about 1872, with J. P. Clough, postmaster. It was located on his farm, six miles southwest of Cortland and was known as Highland Center. On the founding of the village of Cortland this postoffice was discontinued. Among those who have served as postmaster at Cortland was A. B. McNickle, now a resident of Ashland, Kansas, who was for many years justice of the peace and postmaster in the village, and who was one of the first men to locate there. Mr. McNickle was one of the first settlers in Highland township, having located on a homestead in 1872. In 1889 he was one of Gage county's representatives in the state legislature and he was always recognized as a citizen of sterling worth. At the present time Mrs. Martha Gletty is postmistress. The rural districts at Cortland are supplied with free mail delivery, this service being performed by two carriers.

The churches at Cortland are the Congregational church, the Methodist Episcopal church, the Catholic church and the Seventh Day Adventist church. The Congregational and the Catholic churches were organized in 1885 and the Methodist Episcopal church was recently organized. All these churches have substantial church buildings.

The benevolent and fraternal orders at Cortland are the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Highlanders and Knights and Ladies of Security.

Since 1884 Cortland has supported a weekly newspaper. Its founders were Conant & Bloom; it has had numerous editors and proprietors. Until quite recently it was known as the Cortland *Sun*, but it is now called the Cortland *News*.

The first school in Cortland was an ordinary district school, with the school-house located on the Union Pacific right-of-way. Later this building was moved to a better location, and it served several years as the village school-house. Cortland now possesses a fine two-story, brick school-house, with basement,

which was erected in 1916 at an approximate cost of $20,000. The district employs seven teachers and there is an enrollment of one hundred and twenty-five pupils. It offers a four years' course of study in the high school, which ranks with those of Beatrice and other large cities.

Cortland has two general stores, a grocery store, drug store, three garages, blacksmith shop, meat market, two restaurants, two elevators, a lumber yard and a small private electric-lighting plant.

Although without fire protection except a volunteer brigade, the village has never suffered any disastrous fire. The federal census of 1910 gives Cortland a population of three hundred and ninety. Its present population is somewhat larger, as the village is in a prosperous, growing condition.

Cortalnd was organized as a village under the laws of Nebraska many years ago and has been one of the most efficiently governed municipal corporations in the county. Its present village board consists of K. Slot, Thomas Sargent, C. H. Pfeiffer, F. H. Bear and J. A. Johnson.

FILLEY

The village of Filley is a station thirteen miles out from Beatrice on the Burlington line of railroad. It is situated in the midst of a fine section of the county and since its founding has been the center of a wealthy farming community. It is located on the northwest quarter of section 28, in Filley township. It was founded by Elijah Filley, the owner of this tract of ground, in the spring of 1882 at the time of the Tecumseh-Auburn branch of the Burlington Railroad was constructed. The plat of the village was filed for record by the incorporators, Elijah and Emma Filley, April 22, 1883.

The first mercantile establishment in Filley was the general merchandise store of Lewellen & Axtell. This was followed by a hardware store belonging to Charles G. Dorsey, of Beatrice, but managed by John W. Wright, who later acquired the stock by purchase from Dorsey. Both these pioneer merchants, Lewellen and Wright, remained in business in Filley for many years and both amassed sung fortunes. Lewellen is now a prominent citizen of Thedford, Thomas county, Nebraska, and Mr. Wright died a few years ago, deeply mourned by his entire community. Dr. I. N. Pickett, now of Odell, was the first physician to locate here, though Dr. L. D. Boggs, now of Oklahoma City, who had settled on a farm in that neighborhood in 1874, had practised his profession as a physician continuously from that date and for many years thereafter, in Filley and its vicinity. His son, Dr. Charles S. Boggs, is the present resident physician.

W. A. Waddington was the first postmaster, and later, while a resident of Filley, was elected sheriff of Gage county. At present James F. Boggs is the postmaster. Filley has free rural delivery of the mails, which gives employment to two carriers.

Filley possesses two general stores, a grocery store, a restaurant, two elevators, three garages, a drug store, lumber yard, and other business enterprises usually to be found in a village of its population in this section of the country.

The fraternal and benevolent orders of Filley are the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen and Royal Highlanders.

In 1885 the Methodist Episcopal church building was erected, and this denomination has maintained an organization at Filley ever since. Early in the history of the village the Baptist church also was organized and a church edifice erected. This building, about 1902, was destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt, and the organization disbanded. In 1888 the Christian denomination erected a church in Filley and has since maintained its organization.

Filley school district was organized May 2, 1868, the first meeting of the voters being held at the home of Elijah Filley. The first school-teacher in the district was Matthew Weaverling, who taught several very successful schools here. He afterward taught in the

city schools of Beatrice and was for six years county superintendent of schools in Gage county. The present school building in Filley is a substantial three-room, frame structure. The district employs three teachers and the school has an enrollment of sixty-five pupils. The course of study at present includes two years' high-school work. June 8, 1918, on proper notices, Filley school district No. 9, effected a consolidation with districts Nos. 43, 93 and 120. The consolidated district will hereafter be known as district No. 166. This consolidated district is about to vote on a proposition to issue its bonds in the sum of $50,000, to be used in the erection and equipment of a new school building. The school population of the district is approximately one hundred and seventy-five pupils. Under the new arrangement the district will give employment to seven or eight teachers and, with the usual grades, there will be a four years' high-school course.

In addition to its other interests, Filley boasts a substantial bank, the State Bank of Filley, of which Earl Norcross is cashier and the manager in charge.

To the present world war Filley has contributed eight of its young men, namely: Ray H. Noakes, now in the aviation service in France; C. W. Hazelton, William Thomas, C. J. Saum, Milo Laflin, Elmer Hansen, now at Camp Cody; Claude Saum, at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station; Delbert Edgerton, at Camp Logan.

Filley has had several disastrous fires, but, with great tenacity, has endeavored to overcome these calamities, and the village is now substantially built up with attractive brick business houses.

At the last census the village had a population of two hundred. It probably exceeds that number now. Filley was organized into a village under the laws of Nebraska many years ago and has maintained its organization until the present time. The village board at present consists of the following well known gentlemen: T. C. Hagerman, Hans Anderson, Christ Christianson, Charles Parker, and John V. Clark.

Among those who have contributed to the growth and prosperity of the village since its founding are Elijah and Emma Filley (now of Des Moines, Iowa), Charles S. and James F. Boggs, P. T. Lewellen, John W. Wright, Hans Anderson, Daniel F. Kees, W. A. Waddington, T. C. Hagerman, P. M. Anderson, A. C. Tilton, Christ Christiansen, H. M. Miller, Charles Parker, Dr. L. B. Boggs, John V. Clark, J. F. Burbank, Earl Norcross, Dr. I. N. Pickett, and Erastus W. Starlin.

LIBERTY

The village of Liberty is located on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad between Chicago and Denver, by way of St. Joseph. The townsite comprises a part of the southeast quarter of section 35, a part of the southwest quarter of section 36, in Island Grove township, besides a part of the northwest quarter of section 1 and part of the northeast quarter of section 2 in Liberty township; it lies within a mile of the east line of Gage county. It is the trade center of quite a scope of rich farming land in both Gage and Pawnee counties. The original townsite was owned by Nathaniel Cain, Frank Muchmore, and Allen B. Jimmerson. It was deeded by them to the Lincoln Land Company and the plat of the town was filed in the office of the register of deeds in Gage county on the 19th day of June, 1881. The railroad was built through the county in 1881 and trains began running in the fall of that year.

In the early '70s Cornelius S. Wymore had been appointed postmaster for this community and the office was called Liberty. It was on his farm, half a mile west of the present town. In 1879 he opened a drug store in connection with the postoffice. At that time the mails were carried twice a week between Pawnee City and Blue Springs. When the village was laid out, its founders adopted the name of Mr. Wymore's postoffice as a suitable cognomen for the prospective town.

The little village built up rapidly. The first merchant was E. W. Lane, who, as early as 1882, had a general merchandise store. Mr. Lane's venture was soon followed by others,

and in a short time Liberty was a town of several hundred people, in which every class of business was represented, — general stores, restaurants, drug store, hardware stores, lumber yard, elevators, barber shops, meat markets and the like.

The first bank was organized in 1882 by Frank Stewart and E. E. Harden. With varying fortunes, as Harden & Stewart's Bank, Bank of Liberty, First National Bank of Liberty, it has had a continuous existence since its founding. It is now known as the State Bank of Liberty and is affiliated with the First National Bank of Beatrice. It is still the leading banking institution in the village. In the year 1917 the Farmers State Bank of Liberty was organized, and this bank also is in a flourishing condition.

The orders now in existence at Liberty are the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, with their auxiliaries, and the Royal Highlanders.

For many years the Missionary Baptists have maintained an organization in Liberty township. This church was one of the pioneer churches of the county and known among Baptists throughout the state of Nebraska. After Liberty was founded, the organization built a church building in the village, and it is still a live and active member of the Baptist denomination in Gage county. The Christian denomination also have maintained an organization in Liberty and own a substantial, well built church. At one time there were a Methodist and two Presbyterian churches in Liberty, but a few years ago these were consolidated into a Congregational church. The history of this consolidation is interestingly set forth in a statement by the Rev. N. L. Packard, which, on account of its general interest in showing what may be done in such cases, is here given in full.

"One of the most interesting attempts at church union ever known in the state was that of Liberty, Gage county. Liberty, a village of four hundred people and a well settled country adjacent, had for years tried to support five Protestent American churches. There were five church buildings and sometimes five half-starved preachers. It seemed a poor use of home-missionary funds to keep these churches running.

"Three of these churches, Presbyterian, United Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal, felt that a union must in some way be effected. But as the three were of about equal strength, the problem which seemed impossible to solve was which one should survive and which two must be swallowed up. The matter ran on for several years, when a happy suggestion was made by a layman in the United Presbyterian church. That was for all three churches to disband and organize a Congregational church, as there was no church of this name in the place and its polity made it generally acceptable to people of all evangelical faiths.

"It was finally agreed that when eighty per cent. of the membership agreed to the plan the move should be made. When the paper was circulated, almost one hundred per cent. of each church signed, as well as some who were not members of any of the three. Some hoped that all five churches might combine, but the Baptists and the Disciples decided to continue their organizations.

"A committee of nine, three from each of the consolidating churches, was chosen to manage affairs until the new organization could be effected. After the local people had decided to form a Congregational church, the committee asked State Superintendent S. I. Hanford to send them a minister who could shepherd the flock and help them to organize. Rev. N. L. Packard, of Lincoln, the state general missionary, was called to the important task. He found a very delightful people to work with, and by December, 1911, property interests were arranged and a church organization effected under the name of the First Congregational Church of Liberty, Nebraska.

"The old Presbyterian church building and parsonage were turned over to the new organization, on the simple condition of their meeting some small indebtedness. The United Presbyterian church building was bought at a small figure, and both were in use for a time. At length, however, the last named building

was enlarged and a basement placed under it, and the other building sold. The parsonage continued in use for the new pastor.

"The three Sunday schools were running with an average attendance of about thirty, but the new school started out with a membership of nearly two hundred, and an average attendance for the following six years of more than one hundred and thirty. The church membership was not over forty each before the union, but the new church was organized with one hundred and sixty members and has increased in numbers each succeeding year. Rev. N. L. Packard became so interested in the field that he resigned his state work and accepted a unanimous call to become pastor. He filled out six very pleasant years, and the Rev. Calvin Holbrook is at the present writing leading the church in a very successful pastorate.

"No sectarian divisions have arisen during the years and a spirit of general harmony has been maintained. Letters have come from many states in the Union, asking 'How was it done?' Just such a consolidation of church interests is demanded in many towns.

N. L. Packard,
Wahoo, Nebraska."

Liberty was organized as a village in 1883, under the statutes of the state of Nebraska, and it has maintained its village organization up to the present time. The present village board consists of W. D. Huntington (chairman), L. E. Baldwin, (clerk), William Harmon, Jacob Jimmerson, James Bloom, and H. H. Kirschner.

One of the first school districts organized in the county was the Plum Creek district, now Liberty district. In a reorganization in 1868, for the purpose of numbering the districts of the county, this district was given number 27, a number that it still retains. The Liberty public school, into which the old Plum Creek district has grown, is one of the highly rated schools of the county. The district owns a fine, two-story, brick school building, employs six teachers and has an enrollment of approximately one hundred and fifty pupils.

Liberty has suffered several disastrous fires, but phoenix-like, has risen from its ashes, and to-day, with a population of over four hundred, is one of the interesting and pretty villages of our county.

The Liberty *Journal* was established by a member of the well known Olmstead family, in 1882, shortly after the founding of the village. It had had a continuous unbroken existence from that day to this and is now owned and edited by J. Franklin Spence.

Some of the early settlers of Liberty township and vicinity were:

Nathaniel P. Cain, deceased, a native of Tennessee, born in 1823, homesteaded in Liberty township in 1865. Stephen Evans, deceased, a native of Ohio, born in 1823, settled in Liberty township in 1866. Sylvester Fisher, a native of Ohio, born in 1833, came to Nebraska in 1859, locating in Pawnee county, just over the line from Liberty, moved to Liberty township in 1868. James Gay, a native of England, born in 1844, immigrated to America in 1869. He located in Beatrice in 1879, and in 1880 in Liberty, where he is "The Village Blacksmith." A. P. McMains, a native of Indiana, born in 1831, came to Nebraska in 1858 and to Liberty township in March, 1860. F. M. Muchmore, deceased, a native of Ohio, born in 1832, located on Turkey creek, in Johnson county, in 1866, and in Liberty township in 1868. Cornelius S. Wymore, a native of Indiana, born in 1841, located in Pawnee county in 1861, served in Company D, Second Kansas Cavalry from 1861 to 1865, and he was first postmaster of Liberty. Peter Bollinger, native of Claibourne county, Tennessee, born in 1840, came to Liberty township in 1867. He became known as a Baptist minister, farmer, school-teacher, was a man of sterling character, able and useful, and he now resides in Graham county, Kansas. Allen B. Jimmerson, native of Claibourne county, Tennessee, settled on the southeast quarter of section 35, township 2, range 8, Gage county, in 1874, a part of his old farm being included in village of Liberty. A man of fine character, generous, friendly, honest and able, he died in 1916, leaving many descendants. Jonathan Sharp, a native of Clai-

bourne county, Tennessee, was born June 23, 1826. He came to Liberty township in 1864 and settled across Plum creek, just south of the village of Liberty. He died about twenty years ago, a man of fine character, honest, able, active in county and local affairs, and much esteemed by all who ever knew him, for kindness of heart and generous hospitality.

Most of the men here mentioned were from the state of Tennessee. Nearly all have passed away, leaving behind them nothing but the most kindly remembrances. They would have graced any community in the world as honest, worthy, independent citizens. Such as these have given the village of Liberty high standing in Gage county.

ODELL

This neat and compact Gage county village is an important station on the main line of the Burlington Railroad system between Chicago and Denver, via St. Joseph, Missouri, and is a junction point where originates the branch line to Concordia, Kansas, via Lanham, Nebraska, and Hanover, Washington and other Kansas towns. It was the first village founded on the old Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation. Prior to the founding of Odell, William B. LaGorgue had surveyed and platted a townsite on his farm, on the south side of Big Indian creek, a mile or so from Odell, and christened it Charleston. A start had been made toward establishing a town there when, in 1880, the railroad was surveyed north of the creek and the village of Odell was founded. All who had cast in their lot with Charleston moved to Odell and were instrumental in giving that prospective village its first start on what has proved a prosperous and happy existence.

The village is located a little north of Big Indian creek, one of the prettiest and most important streams of southern Gage county. It is a living stream, and in the early days was well timbered; along its course near Odell a good quarry of limestone was found from which several of the buildings of the village were constructed. The village is planted in the midst of a thriving and wealthy farming community. Nowhere in the county are there better farm buildings, better tilled, better kept farms, better orchards, roads or school buildings than in the vicinage of Odell

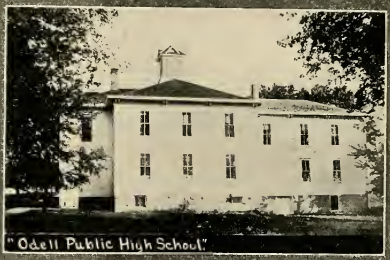
Odell is partly in Glenwood and partly in Paddock township, and is located on land originally bought by Perry Walker, in 1879, from the United States government, as agent and guardian of the Indians. He, in 1880, sold it to J. D. Myers, of Chicago, and by the latter an undivided half-interest in the tract comprising the original townsite was sold to Charles E. Perkins, representing the Lincoln Land Company, an organization composed chiefly of the officials and employes of the Burlington Railroad system. Mr. Perkins himself was at that time, or afterward, president of the Burlington Railroad Company. The original townsite covered part of the west half of the southwest quarter of section 18, township 1 north, of range 6 east, and part of the east half of the southeast quarter of section 13, township 1 north, range 5 east. It was surveyed and platted by Anselmo B. Smith, September 21, 1880. The plat was filed in the office of the register of deeds of Gage county November 11, 1884, with the Lincoln Land Company (by Charles E. Perkins, its president,) and James D. and Elizabeth A. Myers, as incorporators. It was named after LeGrand Odell, of Chicago, a friend of Myers who had induced him to come west from Chicago and locate at Odell, and who on account of his relations with the Burlington officials or some of them, was instrumental in giving his friend a start in this venture.

The first merchant of Odell was Mike Triskey, who moved his store from Charleston to the new village on the railway line. Things moved very rapidly then. The entire county and state were new and filling with new people. Immigrants flocked to the new towns along the railroad lines, and villages were born over night. Odell soon had a supply of stores, shops and business houses of every kind, and by 1882 it was a prosperous, thriving village.

In its early history James D. Myers built what was called "The Store on the Hill," for a

M. E. Church: Odell

Birdseye View of Odell



"Odell Public High School"

"Catholic Church & Rectory" Odell-

"Christian Church" Odell.

long time the most sightly and imposing structure in the village. Here he kept a general merchandise store and did a small banking business. But he was not a very good business man and soon others easily eclipsed him. He died some years ago, a poor man, having let slip the opportunity to make a snug fortune. His chief competitors were F. R. Joy and his sons Edward and Howard. Edward Joy, for many years the leading merchant of Odell, amassed a fortune and retired and is now living at Havelock. The father and Howard did a flourishing banking business at Odell.

Several years ago the Hinds State Bank was organized as successor to the Joy Bank. It is owned by Edward B. and Charles H. Hinds and occupies the building formerly occupied by the Joys. This bank has had a successful career and does an annual business amounting in volume to many thousands of dollars. For some time its deposits have run to nearly a quarter of a million dollars. The banking business of the village and surrounding country is shared by the Odell State Bank, with deposit accounts aggregating a quarter of a million dollars. Its owners and officers are: Thomas W. Stanosheck, president; Ernest Loemker, vice-president; W. T. Stanosheck, cashier.

The first church organized in Odell was the Methodist Episcopal, and the organization held its meetings in a carpenter shop the first year. In 1886 J. D. Myers donated a lot upon which a small frame church building was erected, at an original cost of fifteen hundred dollars. Rev. Mr. Orr was the first pastor. The present minister in charge is Rev. H. S. Burd. The Catholics also have a flourishing organization in Odell. The first frame building erected by the church cost six hundred dollars. The present church was erected many years ago, at a cost of four thousand dollars, and the property includes a rectory or parsonage, built a dozen years ago. At first there were but eight or ten Catholic families; now there are forty-five. Several priests of great ability and learning have ministered to the parish; among them the first priest, Father Mosler, who served the parish for ten years, and the present pastor, Father W. J. McKenna. The Christian church also is one of the well established religious organizations of Odell. Its church edifice was erected in 1888 and the organization has been active in the community ever since. It frequently is without a regular pastor and is then supplied by students from Cotner University, at Lincoln.

The fraternal organizations are the Grand Army of the Republic, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights & Ladies of Security, and some others. The Grand Army of the Republic, once a flourishing and numerous body of Civil war veterans, has by lapse of time become reduced to five living members,—Henry Rice, E. B. Hinds, A. F. Drake, Michael Keckley, and Hubert Glasgow. While these heroes of a day long past do not meet regularly any more, they loyally maintain their organization.

The village of Odell has two lumber corporations, two elevators, two hotels, three general-merchandise stores, a drug store, harness shop, two implement houses, a furniture store and undertaking establishment, three garages, one pump shop with accessories, local telephone exchange and many other business concerns. By the last census the population of the village was four hundred and twenty-seven.

The Odell *Weekly Wave* newspaper was founded in the village in 1893, by G. W. Bede, and has had a continuous and a successful existence ever since. It is now owned and ably edited by J. P. Martin. It receives the loyal support of the community and is in a flourishing condition as a country newspaper.

The school district of the village was organized January 12, 1878, at the house of W. B. LaGorgue. The first school building was a small frame structure, to the erection of which LeGrand Odell contributed $100, the people, by subscription, $100, and the school district, in bonds, $400. The present school building is a frame, two-story, seven-room structure. The district employs seven teach-

ers and maintains a high school with a four years' course, with normal training.

Some of the men who have been prominent in the affairs of Odell are Perry Walker, William B. LaGorgue, E. B. Hinds, T. W. Stanosheck, James D. Myers, Dr. George L. Roe, Amos Quein, F. R. Joy and his sons Edward and Howard Joy, Thomas R. Callan (the veteran merchant of Odell, whose son, now serving in the army of the United States, is postmaster of Odell), John Millhalland, Frank Styles, Eli Worthington, John Wilson, Lund Nelson, Dr. Henry Allen, Henry Rice, Hubert Glasgow, Charles N. Hinds, William M. Munns, Henry Kasparek, James F. Raney, George Williamson, Frank Truax, M. E. Shalla, H. R., Rufus, and Sidney Tincher, and Dr. I. N. Pickett.

PICKRELL

[This history of Pickrell was written by Evelyn Brinton, a high school pupil of that village. — H. J. D.]

Mr. Watson and William Pickrell owned the land where Pickrell is located. There was some talk of having the town two miles north, but the sidetrack for the railroad was here. In the year 1884 the Pickrell brothers began to lay off the lots; some of the first lots sold for fifteen dollars and others for twenty-five dollars. Pickrell was built on the hillside, because the railroad ran on the level. The first settler was Mr. Bashaw. His home was built outside of Pickrell and afterwards moved in; the house is still standing, and Mr. William Hansel now occupies it. The first house built in Pickrell belonged to Ed. White. Mr. McKim built some of the first houses for the settlers to move into. Mrs. Edwards owned the first good building.

Pickrell was organized as a village August 14, 1913, with G. L. Mumford as chairman of the board of trustees, Dr. Amesbury Lee, treasurer, J. R. Wilson, clerk; the other members of the town board were B. E. Ridgley and J. J. Wardlaw.

The first postoffice was in the grain-elevator office. It was started in 1884. Mr. Joseph Chandler was appointed postmaster February 1, 1884. Mr. David Royer, the second postmaster, was appointed July 1, 1884. The first postoffice building burned in 1890. The first mail carrier was Roy Armstrong.

The first church was the Congregational, built in 1885, and the first minister was Mr. Bates. In 1888 the United Brethren church was built and Mr. Surface was the minister. In 1910 both the Congregational and United Brethren churches were torn down and the present United Brethren church was built.

A list of old settlers is as follows: David Royer, who now resides at McPherson, Kansas; Mr. Houdgs, deceased, place of burial southeast of Pickerell; Mr. Bergett, deceased, place of burial, Hutchinson, Kansas; Roxie Irvin, deceased; J. D. White, who resides at Gage, Oklahoma; D. Nicewonger, G. Balderson and F. J. Emal, who reside in Pickrell; S. King, John Young, Mr. Bashaw, Mr. McKin, Mr. Lockwood, Thomas Noonan, Thomas Langely, B. Bathrick, Dr. D. W. Tucker, Mr. Wilber, Mr. Chandler, Henry Latimer, and Mr. Waters.

Pickrell was started with one family; later more settlers came. There was a store, an elevator, postoffice, drug store and a few other business houses. Now we have two general stores, two elevators, three garages, a bank, an implement shop, a drug store, a hardware store, cream station, hotel, blacksmith shop, barber shop and lumber yard. The population is now between one hundred and seventy-five and two hundred. A list of the leading business houses when the town was first started is as follows: A general store, managers Mr. Royer and Mr. Bergett; a blacksmith shop, William Hunter, manager; a lumber yard, Mr. McKim and Mr. Newcomb, managers; a livery barn, Mr. D. Tucker, proprietor; a hardware store, Mr. Newcomb, proprietor. The depot agent was Roxie Irvin. The first section boss was Thomas Noonan. Mr. Davis and Mr. Chandler bought hogs.

A list of leading business houses and managers to-day is as follows: Bergstraesser store; managers, Bergstraesser Brothers. Rife's store; manager, Henry Dirk. Implement store; proprietor, F. C. Pape. Drug

store; druggist, R. Dunkle. Lumber yard; manager, C. P. Horn. Blacksmith shop; proprietor, F. J. Emal. Cream station; manager, B. Mumford.

The first school house was built in 1885, where the present school building stands. The school district is No. 144. Some of the first teachers were Miss Proctor, Mr. Lamberti, Miss Kennedy, and Miss Hadley.

In 1912 school districts Nos. 65 and 144 were consolidated and a new brick school building built. It is now a ten-grade school. In December, 1917, the pupils of the high school surveyed the land in Pickrell that could be utilized for gardens; they found about eight acres, which is going to be used. Later the school became a hundred-per-cent school as a Red Cross society. The food-pledge cards were distributed to the parents by the school children; they were signed by the parents and returned, to be sent to the food administrator. In January, 1918, the pupils of the primary and grammar rooms went to the homes of all the people in the town and tagged their shovels. The school was very successful in the sale of thrift and war-savings stamps. There are sixty-seven on the roll. During the month of January, 1918, the school bought $1,300 worth of war-savings stamps and was awarded a banner by the county superintendent of Gage county, T. J. Trauernicht.

A list of the early preachers is: Mr. Bates, Mr. Long, Mr. Rock, and Mr. Surface. The first doctor and druggist was Mr. B. Bathrick.

The first bank was organized in 1904. F. R. Pothast is cashier and Mr. Reil, bookkeeper. The first bank building was on the north side of Main street and is still standing; in 1911 a brick bank building was erected across the street.

The postoffice is in the hardware store; William Vanderhook is postmaster. Bud Weiser is the mail carrier for route No. 2, and Earl Emal is substitute for route No. 1.

The Union Pacific Railroad was started through Pickrell in 1883 and finished in 1884.

The first grain elevator was the Omaha, in the southeast part of Pickrell, built in 1884; Mr. Cotner, manager. The next elevator was the Nebraska, with Mr. J. D. White as manager. Before the elevators were built Mr. White bought the grain and shipped it. Then the farmers bought the elevator, and Mr. White, Mr. Wardlaw, Mr. Williams and Mr. J. R. Wilson were managers. It was organized in 1905. In 1913 a new elevator was built by the farmers, and Mr. J. R. Wilson has been manager from then to the present time. There are 175 members of the Farmers Elevator Company and the capital stock is $25,000. The capacity of the elevator is 25,000 bushels.

Mr. D. Nicewonger has lived in Pickrell the longest; he came from Oregon, Illinois, when he was seven years old. Some of the leading citizens are: J. R. Wilson, C. P. Horn, F. L. Pothast, Rev. Beasley, William Vanderhook, R. W. Dunkle, D. Nicewonger, G. Balderson, Bergstraesser Brothers and F. C. Pape. We have four boys in the world war. They are David Emal, Robert Mumford, Ben Weiser, and Marion Sigler.

Pickrell has had three fires. In 1890 five buildings on the north side of Main street burned. In 1893 two livery barns burned; they were never rebuilt. The last fire was in 1910, when some of the buildings on the south side of Main street burned. There have been two floods that came to the railroad tracks but did not do any damage.

The officers of Pickrell now are: J. R. Wilson, chairman; C. P. Horn, clerk; F. L. Pothast, treasurer; and the other members of the village board are Mr. Reil, B. E. Ridgley, and D. Nicewonger.

VIRGINIA

This attractive Gage county village comprises the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 11, township 2 north, range 6 east. It is a station of both the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific line of railway from Chicago to Denver and a branch of the Missouri Pacific Railway from Kansas City, Missouri, which terminates at Virginia. It has several good stores, lumber yard, implement

house, garage, blacksmith shop, grain elevators and other business accessories to a thriving village. The townsite was surveyed and platted by Ford Lewis, the owner of the land, about the time of the completion of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway through that section of country. The plat was filed for record in the office of the register of deeds May 23, 1887.

The first general store was that of M. V. Drew, and this was followed almost immediately by the store of Warren Barber, who was Virginia's first postmaster. The first blacksmith was A. L. Boyer, and the first children born in Virginia were his twin daughters, Gertie and Mertie. Mr. Boyer is still the village blacksmith.

The first church organized in Virginia was the Methodist Episcopal church and its pastor, Rev. J. F. Holgate, preached the first sermon. The Christian church was erected in 1902, on a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Dalbey.

In the early history of Virginia, Captain Logan Enyart, of Nebraska City, opened a state bank in the village. It soon passed into the hands of George H. Gale, and later became the property of O. O. Thomas. Still later, A. W. Nickell, of Beatrice, purchased a majority of the stock and he operated this bank until his death. The present Citizens' State Bank of Virginia is an outgrowth of this early banking venture. Amos L. Wright, a pioneer of Gage county, is the principal stockholder and president of the bank and his son, Frederick A. Wright is the present cashier.

Several years ago Mr. Dalbey built a modern hotel for the village, which has added greatly to its attractiveness. There is no more "homey" public house in Gage county than this little hotel. Visitors are drawn to it from far and near and it is liberally patronized by the traveling public.

Virginia started with a single-room school house in 1887, but in 1902 the school district erected a frame, two-story school building. There are about ninety pupils in the district and three teachers are employed. On the 3d day of June, 1918, Virginia school district, No. 110, was consolidated, under the school laws of Nebraska, with districts Nos. 149, 151 and 157, into a county high-school district. The consolidated school district is preparing to erect a modern high-school building which is to cost not to exceed $50,000. The grounds for this building, not to exceed fifteen acres, will be donated by Mr. and Mrs. Dalbey. The consolidated school district will have a school population of approximately one hundred and sixty, will have a full four years' high school course, and employ from seven to ten teachers.

Virginia was incorporated as a village, under the laws of the state, about 1905, and has ever since maintained a corporate existence. As at present constituted, the village board consists of A. M. Darwin, president; W. S. McGaffey, clerk; F. A. Wright, treasurer; and N. C. Mittan and John Henzel.

Virginia is beautifully located on the high, rolling prairie of Sherman township, in the midst of a wealthy farming community, which it serves as a business and social center. By the census of 1910 it contained a population of 154. Its steady growth since then has increased this to probably two hundred inhabitants.

CHAPTER XXVI

UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES

ELLIS — HOAG — KINNEY — LANHAM — ROCKFORD — HOLMESVILLE

The unincorporated villages of Gage county are Ellis, Hoag, Kinney, Lanhan, Rockford and Holmesville.

ELLIS

Ellis is located in the midst of a prosperous farming community in Lincoln township, ten miles west by south from Beatrice. It is a station on the Chicago-Denver line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. It has a bank, the Ellis State Bank, lumber yard, two elevators, two general stores and a farm-implement store.

The Methodist Episcopal church is the only religious denomination represented in Ellis. The village forms a good rural-school district of the county, with a substantial frame building as school house. The district employs one teacher and enrolls about fifty pupils. At the last census Ellis was shown to have a population of 122. It is a good social and business center for the surrounding territory.

HOAG

Hoag is a mere hamlet on the Beatrice-Lincoln line of the Burlington Railroad, the first station out of Beatrice, with a population not to exceed 25. It has a postoffice, general store and two elevators. This is a rural school district, having a frame, one-room school house, about three quarters of a mile southeast of the village. The school employs one teacher and has an enrollment of about forty-five pupils.

KINNEY

Kinney is also a hamlet, located on the Burlington main line, first station east of Wymore, named for Samuel A. Kinney, an old resident of Island Grove township, on whose farm the village is located. It has a general store, postoffice and lumber yard.

LANHAM

Lanham is a village of eighty inhabitants, located twenty-five miles southwest of Beatrice, on the state line, partly in Glenwood township and partly in Kansas. It is a station on the Concordia line of the Burlington Railroad. The principal business houses are the State Bank of Lanham, general store, hardware store, drug store, restaurant, meat market, lumber and coal yard, barber shop and blacksmith shop. Its school district was organized in 1892, at the home of George Arnold. It possesses a single-room, frame school-house, employs one teacher and has an enrollment of thirty-five pupils.

ROCKFORD

Rockford is located in section 1 of Rockford township and is the first station east of Beatrice on both the Burlington and the Rock Island Railroads. It is in one of the oldest-settled portions of the county and has fifty-six inhabitants. It was founded by William Girl more than a quarter of a century ago and has slowly grown to a position of great usefulness as a social and business center of Rockford, Lincoln, Hanover, and parts of Sherman and Filley townships. Though not boastful it is a good little village and there are those yet living who love it because of early associations and the memories its name invokes.

Rockford has a general store, postoffice, two elevators, blacksmith shop and a very pretty church building, the property of the Methodist Episcopal denomination. Rockford school district No. 49 was organized at the home of Morgan Reed, upon notice to John Dunn, May 27, 1872. A few years ago it was consolidated with the F. H. Dobbs school district on the south and the T. B. Essex school district on the north, and it retains its original number, 49. A few years ago the consolidated district erected a fine three-room school house, at a cost of about $5,000. It employs three teachers and has an enrollment of about ninety pupils. In addition to the grades, it offers a two years' high-school course of study.

The early settlers in the immediate neighborhood of Rockford were F. H. Dobbs, Henry D. Lillie, George W. Stark, Solon M. Hazen, Abraham Fetro, Thomas B. Essex, John H. Dunn, John Potterton, Edward Woolridge, Jesse Willis, Humphrey P. Freeman, Peter Girl, William Girl, Calvin Miller, David Miller, Stephen Hayden, Rufus Hayden, John E. Murphy, James B. McLaughlin, Thomas M. Martin, Asa Anderson, D. J. Woods, Henry, Robert and Jacob Fry, (triplets), Morgan Reed, Daniel Fuller, James West, Charles Slocumb, Michael Weaver, John O. Adams, A. B. Smith, George Wilkinson, Andrew Kerr, Alexander Welch, Josiah Graves, Mrs. Serena Webber, Miles Andrews, Duncan Smith, Archibald Smith, Marvin Freeman, and Marion Reese.

No locality in Gage county possesses greater rural charm than that where Rockford is situated. Cedar creek and both branches of Mud creek flow through the township into the Big Blue river. They are all well timbered streams of living water. From every height of land the observer is rewarded by a most beautiful landscape of hill, dale, valley, forest, and in the growing season of the year by vistas of living green; and in the autumn by stretches of gold and brown. No other place in the county exerts as lasting an influence over the heart as the environment of the humble village of Rockford.

HOLMESVILLE

Holmesville is not only the largest but is easily the most important of the unincorporated villages of Gage county. It has a population of 175, according to the federal census of 1910. It is located in Rockford township, on the east bank of the Big Blue river. It is nine miles southeast of Beatrice and is the first station on the Union Pacific Railroad. It was marked by the early settlers as the location for a townsite and Whitesville, the first legal county seat of Gage county, was within half a mile of the townsite of Holmesville, on a tract of land afterward taken as a homestead by James Kingsford, namely: the southwest quarter of section 29, Rockford township. In a very early day, A. L. Hurd and W. S. Guffey opened a stone quarry at or near the site of Holmesville, and most of the stone used in building the first state capitol at Lincoln was hauled across country, by ox, mule and horse teams, from this quarry, in 1868.

The village was founded by Morgan L. Holmes, in 1880, the surveyed plat being filed for record in the office of the register of deeds on March 8th of that year. The founding of the village immediately followed the construction of the present line of the Union Pacific Railroad from Marysville, Kansas, to Beatrice. The first store in Holmesville was a general store opened by Thomas Patz. James Gleason, a brother-in-law of the founder of the village, James H. Davis, Abraham Petro, Eli Miller and James H. Fuller also were among its earliest business men and residents. Fuller ran a general merchandise store for many years, and up to the time of his death, a few years ago, was a well known and substantial citizen of Holmesville.

Amongst the business concerns now found in Holmesville are two general stores, hardware store and lumber yard, elevator, hotel, restaurant and meat market. But what distinguishes Holmesville from all the other villages in the county is the investment made there by J. H. Steinmeyer and his sons George W. and Robert Steinmeyer. About 1908 these public-spirited citizens of the county estab-

lished the State Bank of Holmesville, with a capital of $10,000. Under the very able management of the owners this banking institution has grown to the point where it does a large volume of business in the course of a year and has deposits of over $100,000.

In addition to this bank Mr. Steinmeyer and his sons have invested heavily in a hydro-electric power and lighting plant. The building where the machinery is located is just below the dam and is of concrete and steel construction; it was begun in 1908 and completed in 1911. It generates an electric current of one million watts per hour, and from it Wymore, Blue Springs, Beatrice, and Holmesville are supplied with electricity for all purposes.

The Holmesville school district was organized August 30, 1868, at a meeting held for that purpose at the home of Amos Hayden, two miles southeast of Holmesville, on Mud creek. The first school house was a low, round-log cabin, erected by F. H. Dobbs in the fall of 1858 on his preëmption claim in Rockford township. After the formation of the district, this cabin was bought, taken down and moved to the southeast quarter of section 32 and rebuilt on the northeast corner of that tract, where it was used for several years as a school house for the district. The first teacher was S. S. Switzer. After the founding of Holmesville, a frame, single-room school house was erected in the village, which by successive additions has been expanded into the present public school building. The district employs three teachers, has enrollment of about sixty pupils and offers a two years' high-school course of study. Recently it was consolidated with districts numbered 19, 37, 58, 76, 133 and part of 139. The consolidated school district is about to erect a school building which, with equipment, will cost approximately $50,000. The district will probably then employ seven teachers, will have a school population of approximately 160 pupils, and will install a high school with a four years' course of study.

The Methodist Episcopal church maintains an organization at Holmesville and owns a substantial and very neat house of worship.

For many years Holmesville has been a social and religious center for the Church of the Brethren, a religious denomination commonly spoken of by outsiders as Dunkards, but amongst themselves always simply called The Brethren or Church of the Brethren. This denomination had its origin in Westphalia, Germany in 1708. It was founded by Alexander Mack, as a protest against what he conceived to be the erroneous practices and beliefs of the followers of Martin Luther. Mack taught the strict observances of the forms as respects baptism, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and other ordinances of the church. Both he and his followers were the subjects of intense persecution, and were finally driven out of Germany and compelled to take refuge in the New World. They settled first in Pennsyl-

vania, then spread over Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia and other states, and Canada as well. The communicants of this church now number more 100,000. In doctrine the Brethren are closely affiliated with the Mennonites as opposed to war and litigation; in dress and manners they closely resemble the Quakers or Society of Friends. In Holmesville they have a small church, but a couple of miles northeast of the village the denomination owns a large church edifice, where most of its religious activities are carried on. There is really but one congregation for the two churches and they both have the same pastor, at present the Rev. Edgar Rothrock.

The Church of the Brethren in Rockford township was founded by the Rev. Henry Brubaker, under the following circumstances. John P. Crothers, of Indiana, in 1867, had entered with college scrip a large tract of land in Rockford township, much of which lay on the upland between the valleys of Mud and Cedar creeks. Knowing something of the sturdy virtues of the Church of the Brethren, he advertised largely that he would donate a quarter-section of land in Rockford township to any minister of the Brethren church who would locate upon it and organize a church of that denomination. Mr. Brubaker accepted this offer, and in 1875 Mr. Crothers conveyed to him, by warranty deed, the northwest quarter of section 21 of Rockford township. Shortly thereafter he organized the Brethren church at Rockford, with twelve members. The organization gained in membership rapidly, many of the new-comers purchasing land of Crothers, and about 1880 the large church of the Brethren was erected on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 15, Rockford township. This is one of the historic churches of Gage county. It has performed a great and important service in the settlement and development of the county. Its membership is of a high order of citizens and it exemplifies in an almost perfect degree the gentle doctrines of its founder. It has grown steadily in power, wealth, influence and usefulness, until it is to-day the most lasting monument that could be erected to the venerable Henry Brubaker, who is now spending the declining years of his life in Holmesville, under its shadow.

CHAPTER XXVII

COUNTY OFFICES AND OFFICIALS

First Election Law — Elections — Two Early Elections — Official Roster of County Commissioners — Adoption of Township Organization — County Clerks — County Treasurers — Clerks of District Court — County Sheriffs — County Judges — County Superintendents of Schools — County Surveyors — County Coroners — Registers of Deeds — County Attorneys — County Assessors — Territorial Assemblies — House of Representatives — Members of the Council — State Legislatures — Members of the Senate.

At the second session of the legislative assembly of the territory of Nebraska, begun and held at Omaha December 16, 1855, a general election law was passed and approved January 26, 1856, which, amongst other things, provided that "an election for members of the house of representatives shall take place on the first Monday in August, 1856, and on the same day of each year thereafter." It was further provided that an election for a delegate to congress and for territorial and county officials should be held on the first Monday in August in 1857, and on the same day in every second year thereafter.

The official history of Gage county began on the 7th day of August, 1857, with the form of an election by the members of the Beatrice Townsite Company, for the purpose of effecting county organization by the election of a full corps of county officials. This election was wholly irregular, though held probably on the proper date fixed by statute. It required a special act of the legislative assembly of 1859 to validate this election and give effect to the official acts of the officers so chosen. In 1858 a special election was called by the county board for the purpose of filling vacancies in certain county offices where those who had been chosen the previous year had failed to qualify. For the purpose of elections, the county board divided Gage county into two election precincts. Precinct No. 1 included the south half of the county; precinct No. 2 the north half, as then organized. The dividing line between the precincts was the line between townships 2 and 3. The entire county participated in the special election, and in 1859, at the regular election, a full set of county officials was chosen by the voters of the county.

For a period of sixty years Gage county has gone through a procession of elections, uneventful as a rule, but effective in results. If that nation is happy whose annals are without interest, then the citizens of Gage county have enjoyed great felicity during these three score years, if their annual and biennial elections are to be regarded as barometers of domestic felicity.

Perhaps an incident of the election of 1859 and one of the election of 1860 may be of sufficient interest to justify their preservation in this history. Of both elections and the incidents here narrated the writer can speak with the authority of an eye-witness.

The election of 1859 occurred on a mellow day in August and was well attended by the voters of precinct No. 2. It was held in the open street, at the corner of Second and Court streets, where the ground about the middle of

Court fell away to the north in a wide depression, to include about one-third of block 46, now owned by the Burlington Railroad Company. On the southeast corner of this block, lot 12, was the plain, board shanty of Orrin Stevens, well back from Court street, near the alley, and south of the house, at the edge of the depression, stood his straw-covered shed or stable. The entire population of the county did not exceed three hundred white persons, the majority of whom were residents of precinct No. 2. The voters about the polls that day and the spectators combined probably numbered fifty persons. The voting began some time in the afternoon. Probably about three o'clock anxious inquiries began to be made as to the whereabouts of "Orr Stevens." Presently there arose from the edge of the prairie at Fifth and Court streets a fierce Comanche-like yell, and coming toward the polls the spectator saw a new, partly covered wagon, drawn by a span of fine mules, plunging under whip down street toward the voting place, every crack of the whip being punctuated by yells from the driver, who stood erect in the front end of his wagon. Then the cry was raised "There comes Orr Stevens," and the crowd gathered about the voting place. The team was brought to a sudden stop in their midst, the driver, a spare, light-complexioned man, slightly above medium height, with reddish-brown hair and beard, blue eyes, high, narrow forehead, descended to the ground, and with many good-natured oaths in reply to the banter of the crowd, proceeded to take out the rear endgate of his wagon, and with the help of other willing hands, brought forth a barrel of perfectly good whiskey.

It was election whiskey furnished by the candidates and representatives of the Beatrice Townsite Company, to be used in celebrating the first general election held in Gage county. The head of the barrel was knocked in and all who would helped themselves without invitation to its contents.

The election of 1860 was of great dramatic interest throughout the entire United States. That was the election that sounded the doom of human slavery in our country. The polling place in Beatrice was at "Pap's Cabin." The population of the county had materially increased since the last election, the census of that year showing 421 white inhabitants. The voters, to the number of probably one hundred, gathered early in the forenoon about the voting place. Nebraska Territory was strongly Republican, and at this polling place but two parties were represented, "Douglas Democrats" and Republicans. The seriousness of the situation seemed to be impressed upon all those present, regardless of party. There was some delay in opening the polls, and inquiry was made as to the cause. The information was then given out that those in authority were waiting the arrival of Frederick Elwood and Johnathan Potts, who were to act as clerks of election. Presently two fresh-faced young men arrived and took their places at a table prepared and in readiness for the judges and clerks of election. They were Elwood and Potts, both residents of the Cub creek neighborhood and squatters on the public domain. Less than a year afterward they were the first to volunteer from Gage county in the service of their country in the great Civil war. They went to Nebraska City and both enlisted in Company H, First Regiment of Nebraska Volunteers, the regiment of General John M. Thayer, John McConihe, Thomas J. Majors, Silas D. Strickland, and other Nebraska heroes of that great struggle for human liberty,

The reader may find from the following official roster of Gage county officials some information which may be of interest.

County Commissioners

1857 — Albert Towle, George D. Bonham.
1858 — Albert Towle, H. M. Reynolds.
1859 — Albert Towle, H. M. Reynolds.
1860 — H. M. Reynolds (resigned, succeeded by J. M. Summers), J. T. Alexander, J. B. Mattingly.
1861 — J. B. Mattingly, J. C. Waldrip, J. T. Sargent.
1862 — Fidillo H. Dobbs, Fordyce Roper, William Tyler.

1863 — William Tyler, Fordyce Roper, Fidillo H. Dobbs.
1864 — William Tyler, Fordyce Roper and Fidillo H. Dobbs.
1865 — Fidillo H. Dobbs, William Tyler, H. T. Pierce.
1866 — William Tyler, George Grant, H. P. Freeman.
1867 — H. P. Freeman, William Tichnor, Horace M. Wickham.
1868 — H. P. Freeman, William Tichnor, Horace M. Wickham.
1869 — Horace M. Wickham, J. M. Pettegrew, William Tichnor.
1870 — Horace M. Wickham, J. M. Pettegrew, Solon M. Hazen.
1871 — Horace M. Wickham, Solon M. Hazen, Elijah Filley.
1872 — W. S. Guffy, Elijah Filley, H. M. Wickham.
1873 — W. S. Guffy, Elijah Filley, H. M. Wickham.
1874 — Elijah Filley, H. M. Wickham, W. S. Guffy.
1875 — Solon M. Hazen, Elijah Filley, H. M. Wickham.
1876 — Solon M. Hazen, Elijah Filley, H. M. Wickham.
1877 — Solon M. Hazen, Elijah Filley, Henry Albert.
1878 — William Lamb, Henry Albert, George W. Talbot.
1879 — Henry Albert, George W. Talbot, William Lamb.
1880 — J. Blackman, Henry Albert, William Lamb.
1881 — J. I. Gumaer, William Lamb, Henry Albert.
1882 — T. B. Essex, J. I. Gumaer, Henry Albert.
1883 — T. B. Essex, J. I. Gumaer, T. J. Chesney.
1884 — T. B. Essex, T. J. Chesney, E. W. Lane.
1885 — E. W. Lane, T. J. Chesney, J. W. Williams.
1886 — Township Supervisors.

In 1885 the county adopted the township-supervisor system of county government. At first each township was represented on the county board by a supervisor, the city of Beatrice by four supervisors. This large representation, which was both cumbersome and expensive, was changed by the legislature in 1911, providing that counties under township organization should be divided into seven supervisor districts, with a supervisor for each district. Under this law township organization in Gage county has been very effective, and the county boards have uniformly been composed of men of ability and character. The limitations of this work render it impractical to set forth the names of the supervisors from the beginning of township organization in this county. At present the 1st district, composed of Adams, Filley, Hooker, Logan, Hanover and Nemaha townships, is represented on the board of supervisors by B. H. Siefkes. District No. 2, composed of Blakely, Grant, Clatonia, Highland, Holt and Midland townships, is represented by Warren E. Chittenden. District No. 3, comprising Riverside township and wards one and three of the city of Beatrice, is represented by W. P. Carrithers. District No. 4, comprising wards two and four of Beatrice, is represented by John O. Essam; District No. 5, comprising Rockford, Blue Springs, Sherman, Island Grove and Liberty townships, by J. W. Marples, resigned, John W. McFarren appointed to fill vacancy; District No. 6, composed of Wymore and Barneston townships, by Anton Scheideler; District No. 7, composed of Sicily, Paddock, Lincoln, Elm and Glenwood townships, by J. R. Sailing.

County Clerks

1857, L. H. Johnson (failed to qualify; Nathan Blakely by appointment); 1858-1860, Nathan Blakely; 1861, C. C. Coffinberry; 1862-1869, Oliver Townsend; 1870-1871, Daniel E. Marsh; 1871-1876, William D. Cox; 1876-1882, J. E. Hill; 1882-1886, A. J. Pethoud, 1886-1890, George E. Emery; 1890-1894, Albert G. Keim; 1894-1898, Thomas E. Wilson; 1898-1902, Joseph D. White; 1902-1906, James R. Plasters; 1906-1910, Benjamin H. Conlee; 1910-1917, Jesse C. Penrod (died before close of term and his deputy E. M. Burnham ap-

pointed for the unexpired term); 1917-1919, E. M. Burnham, (resigned, and Mrs. Mabel C. Penrod appointed to fill unexpired term).

County Treasurers

1857, Isma P. Mumford; 1858-1860, Albert Towle; 1860-1862, Theodore M. Coulter; 1863, Herman M. Reynolds; 1864-1870, Albert Towle; 1870-1876, Hiram P. Webb; 1878-1882, John Ellis; 1882-1886, James F. King; 1886-1890, Evan J. Roderick; 1890-1892, Harry W. Davis; 1892-1896, Isaac J. Frantz; 1896-1898, Jacob Klein; 1898-1902, George W. Maurer; 1902-1906 William W. Wright; 1906-1910, Julian A. Barnard; 1910-1915, Elmer E. Hevelone; 1915-1919, Andrew Andersen.

Clerks of the District Court

Prior to the passage of an act of the state legislature under date of June 22, 1867, it seems to have been the custom for judges of the district court to appoint clerks of the court in all organized counties of the territory. The act named not only authorized but also directed the judges to make such appointments. By an act of the legislature approved February 9, 1867, amending the act of June 22, 1867, the county clerks of the several counties of the state were declared to be ex officio clerks of the district court of their respective counties. This act continued in force till 1879, when an act was passed directing that in each county of the state "having a population of eight thousand inhabitants or more there shall be elected in the year 1879, and every four years thereafter, a clerk of the district court in and for such county."

The first clerk of the district court for Gage county of which we have any record was Rienzi Streeter, of Nebraska City. He was represented at the first term of the district court of which there is any known record, beginning November 26, 1863, by Oliver Townsend as depty. At the second term of the court, held in September, 1865, he was represented by Herman M. Reynolds as deputy, and at the fall term (third), which convened October 7, 1867, he was again represented by Herman M. Reynolds. It was probably to remedy this situation that the act of June 22, 1867, was passed.

Those who held the office by appointment from the bench were H. M. Reynolds, 1867; H. P. Webb, 1868; Oliver M. Enlow, 1874; O. H. Phillips, 1876; and J. E. Hill, 1878. Those who have held the office by election under the act of 1879 are:

A. V. S. Saunders, served from 1880 to 1888, inclusive. Frank H. Holt, 1888 to November, 1891. He died on the night of the election, having been reëlected for an ensuing four years' term. His wife was appointed to fill out his unexpired term, and R. W. Laflin was then appointed to hold office till the general election of 1892, when he was elected for the full term of four years. He was succeeded by John A. Weaver, who was elected at the general election of 1895, for the full term of four years. On the expiration of his term he was succeeded by Charles L. Brewster, January 1, 1900, and the latter was succeeded, in 1904, by John R. Quein, who held the office, by a reëlection in 1907, till January 1, 1908, and was succeeded by Frank E. Lenhart, the present incumbent.

Sheriffs

1857, Daniel P. Taylor, failed to qualify; 1858-1860, Philetus M. Favor; 1860-1862, Eli B. Hendy; 1862-1866, Joseph Clyne; 1866-1868, Thomas W. Brown; 1868-1870, Luther P. Chandler; 1870-1872, Daniel Freeman; 1872-1876, Leander Y. Coffin; 1876-1878, A. P. Hazard; 1878-1880, Eugene Mack; 1880-1886, Nathaniel Herron; 1886-1890, E. F. Davis; 1890-1892, William R. Jones; 1892-1896, Robert Kyd; 1896-1900, Lind Nelson; 1900-1904, William A. Waddington; 1904-1910, Alonzo J. Trude; 1910-1915, John L. Schiek; 1915-1919, Frank W. Acton.

County Judges

1857, Obediah B. Hewett; 1858, Nathan Blakely; 1859-1860, William Blakely; 1861-1868, Albert Towle; 1868-1870, Herman M. Reynolds; 1870-1872, C. A. Pease; 1872-1876, J. W. Carter; Carter resigned in 1875

and Alfred Hazlett was appointed to serve remainder of term; 1876-1878, Alfred Hazlett; Hazlett resigned in 1877 and William M. Forbes was appointed to complete the term; 1878-1880 Peter Shaffer; 1880-1882, Joseph E. Cobbey; 1882-1886, Ernest O. Kretsinger; 1886-1890, Oliner N. Enlow; 1890-1896, Wilbur S. Bourne; 1896-1900, M. B. Davis; 1900-1906, Frederick E. Bourne; 1906-1910, Harry E. Spafford; 1910-1917, Herbert D. Walden, 1917-1919, J. A. O'Keefe.

County Superintendents of Schools

1857, N. B. Belden; 1858-1861, Henry Elliott; 1861-1866, B. F. McNeil; 1866-1867, Nathan Blakely; 1867-1869, H. M. Reynolds; 1869-1870, B. F. McNeil; 1870-1874, Lucius B. Filley; 1874-1878, Joseph R. Little; 1878-1884, Matthew Weaverling; 1884-1888, M. D. Horhum; 1888-1892, Marie P. Upson, 1892-1894, A. A. Reed; 1894-1898, W. J. Todd; 1898-1904, A. R. Staller; 1904-1910, Anna V. Day; 1910-1915, Jessie V. Pyrtle; 1915-1919, T. J. Trauernicht.

County Surveyors

1857-1860, G. H. Tobey; 1861-1863, A. J. Pethoud; 1864-1868, Isaac Newton Headley; 1868-1870, A. J. Pethoud; 1870-1872, Alfred Gale; 1872-1876, A. J. Pethoud; 1876-1882, Willis Ball; 1882-1884, G. W. Minkler; 1884-1890, Willis Ball; 1890-1894, R. D. Kennedy; 1894-1896, Joseph Pasco; 1896-1906, Willis Ball; 1906-1915, A. J. Pethoud; 1915-1919, John L. Hershey.

County Coroners

H. M. Wickham was the first coroner, elected in 1861, served to 1862, one year; 1863-1866, J. B. Mattingly; 1866, J. L. Brown; 1867-1871, Daniel Freeman; 1871-1878, Job Buchanan; 1878-1880, Joseph C. Fletcher; 1880-1882, D. A. Walden; 1882-1884, Osceola O. Wells; 1884-1886, M. P. Walsh; 1886-1890, Frank M. Somers; 1890-1892, Osceola O. Wells; 1892-1894, Robert H. Albright; 1894-1896, Joseph C. Fletcher; 1896-1898, Louis Miller; 1898-1902, John Q. Reed; 1902-1906, Clifford W. Walden; 1906-1915, John Q. Reed; 1916-1919, the county attorney, ex officio.

Register of Deeds

The legislature of 1887 created the office of register of deeds in counties having a stipulated number of inhabitants. Prior to that time the duties of this official had been performed by the county clerks of the several counties in the state. At the election in November, 1887, J. E. Hays was elected to this office, and he served till January 1st, 1894; 1894-1898, John T. Greenwood; 1898-1906, Charles L. Reed; 1906-1910, Charles B. Hensley; 1910-1919, John A. Weaver.

County Assessors

This important, not very desirable, and poorly paid office of county assessor has been the subject of a good deal of legislation. On the 26th day of January, 1856, the territorial assembly passed a general statute respecting assessors and assessments. By that act the office of *county* assessor was created. By the act of February 22, 1873, provision was made for the election of *precinct* assessors. This was followed by an act of the legislature in 1879, becoming effective September 1st of that year, which provided for the election of *township* assessors. The general revenue law of 1903 provided for the election of *county* assessors, who should hold office for four years and be ineligible for reëlection while in office. The legislature of 1913 provided that at the general election of 1916 and each four years thereafter there should be elected in each county in the state a *county* assessor, whose term of office should be four years and who should be ineligible for two successive terms. The act then provided that upon presentation of a petition to the county board not less than sixty days before a general election, signed by a prescribed percentage of the electors of the county, and praying that the question of electing the county assessor of said county be submitted to the electors therein, the county board should order that question to be submitted at the general election, and that if a ma-

jority of the votes cast should be opposed to the election of county assessors in that county, the office should cease with the expiration of the term of the then incumbent, and the duties of the office be thereafter performed by the county clerk. The last statute is the one now in force.

The condition of the Gage county records as respects this office is such as to render it extremely difficult to make up an accurate list of those who have held the office of county assessor under the act of 1856. In 1867 William Blakely was elected to that office, for a term of two years. He was succeeded by George Gale, in 1869, and at the general election of 1871 Charles H. Slocum was elected county assessor. He served until January 1, 1874, when, by the change in the law, as above noted, precinct assessors came into existence. Under the act of 1903 Walter W. Scott was the first assessor and held the one term. He was succeeded by R. C. Hemphill, in 1908. At the general election of 1911 A. K. Smith was elected county assessor, but he died before taking office, and Oliver M. Enlow was appointed to and held the office of assessor until the act of 1913 came into effect and the duties of the office devolved upon the county clerk.

District and County Attorney

The legislature of 1885 created the office of county attorney in all counties of the state having 2,000 population. Prior to the passage of this act the duties of a prosecuting attorney had been performed by district attorneys elected for each judicial district of the state. District attorneys for the district in which Gage county is located were uniformly lawyers of ability and high character. One of the early district attorneys was the late Jefferson H. Broady, who, in the '70s, although a Democrat of the old school, was elected to the office in a strong Republican district, which at the time comprised the counties of Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Fillmore, Nuckolls, Clay, Adams, Kearney, Harlan, Thayer, Franklin, and Webster. In 1883 he was elected judge of the First judicial district, then composed of Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Johnson, and Gage counties, and he was reëlected to the office in 1887, making eight years' service on the district judicial bench. He was a splendid citizen, an able lawyer, and a wise and conscientious judge.

Judge Broady was succeeded in the district attorney's office by John P. Maul, of Fairmont, Fillmore county, who, after a four years' term, ending about 1879, was succeeded by Judge William H. Morris, of Crete. In 1881 Robert W. Sabin, of Beatrice, was elected to this responsible office, and at the close of the two years' term he was succeeded by Daniel F. Osgood, of Tecumseh, in 1883. Before the election of 1885 occurred, the office of district attorney was abolished by the legislature and that of county attorney created.

Robert S. Bibb was the first county attorney of Gage county, being elected to that office in November, 1886. In 1888 Hugh J. Dobbs was elected, and in 1890, Charles O. Bates. Mr. Bates afterward resigned his office and left the state, whereupon his partner, Alfred Hazlett, was appointed to serve the remainder of his term. In 1892 Robert W. Sabin was elected county attorney, and after two years' service he was succeeded by George Arthur Murphy, who was reëlected in 1894. He was succeeded by Samuel Rinaker, who, by reëlection in 1898, held the office four years. He was succeeded, in 1900, by H. E. Sackett, who was reëlected in 1902, and who was succeeded, in 1904, by Samuel D. Killen, who was himself succeeded by Menzo Terry, in 1906. Frederick O. McGirr was elected in 1908, and in the presidential election of 1912 his successor, Jean Cobbey, was elected. He served two years and was defeated for reëlection in 1914, by Frederick Messmore, who was reëlected in 1916 and is the present incumbent of the office.

Territorial Assembly — House of Representatives

DATE	NAME	RESIDENCE	COUNTIES REPRESENTED
1859	Dr. Charles A. Goshen	Tecumseh	Gage, Clay, Johnson
1860	Hiram W. Parker	Austin	Gage, Clay, Johnson
1861	Nathan Blakely	Beatrice	Gage, Clay, Johnson
1862	Nathan Blakely	Beatrice	Gage, Clay, Johnson
1863	John Cadman	Lancaster	Gage, Clay, Johnson
1864	John Cadman	Lancaster	Gage, Clay, Johnson
1865	Herman M. Reynolds	Beatrice	Gage, Jones
1866	Hugh M. Ross	Unknown	Gage, Jones
1867	Nathan Blakely	Beatrice	Gage, Jones

Territorial Assembly — Members of the Council

1865	Dr. Jeremiah N. McCasland	Pawnee City	Pawnee, Gage, Clay, Johnson, Jones
1866	Dr. Jeremiah N. McCasland	Pawnee City	Pawnee, Gage, Clay, Johnson, Jones
1867	Dr. Alexander S. Stewart	Pawnee City	Pawnee, Gage, Clay, Johnson, Jones

State Legislature — House of Representatives

1867	Oliver Townsend	Beatrice	Gage, Jones
1869	Nathan Blakely	Beatrice	Gage, Jones
1871	Fordyce Roper	Beatrice	Pawnee, Gage, Saline, Jefferson and Lancaster
1873	J. B. McDowell	Beatrice	Gage
1875	J. B. McDowell	Beatrice	Gage
1877	William Anyan	Beatrice	Gage
1879	L. B. Boggs	Beatrice	Gage
	John Sparks	Beatrice	Gage
	William Curtis	Adams	Gage
1881	H. H. Silver	Silver	Gage
	Elijah Filley	Beatrice	Gage
1883	G. R. Turner	Blue Springs	Gage
	W. W. Morrison	Beatrice	Gage
	G. H. Castle	Blue Springs	Gage
1885	F. H. Holt	Beatrice	Gage
	S. M. Hazen	Blue Springs	Gage
	J. R. Buffington	Liberty	Gage
1887	J. M. Wardlow	Pickrell	Gage
	C. C. Gafford	Wymore	Gage
	J. N. Fuller	Hanover	Gage
1889	F. E. Whyman	Adams	Gage
	F. C. Severin	Cortland	Gage
	A. B. McNickle	Cortland	Gage
	W. C. Hill	Blue Springs	Gage
1891	J. W. Williams	Filley	Gage
	J. W. Faxon	Lanham	Gage
	Edward Arnold	Odell	Gage
	Henry Albert	Wilber	Gage
1893	J. M. Wardlaw	Pickrell	Gage

	H. J. Merrick	Adams	Gage
	P. H. James	Cortland	Gage
	E. B. Hinds	Odell	Gage
	F. W. Miles	DeWitt	Gage
1895	E. B. Hinds	Odell	Gage
	H. J. Merrick	Adams	Gage and Saline
	J. C. Birch	Wymore	Gage
1897	G. U. Jones	Wymore	Gage
	G. R. Fouke	Liberty	Gage
	W. E. Chittenden	Cortland	Gage
	J. H. Casebeer	Blue Springs	Gage and Saline
1899	W. E. Chittenden	Clatonia	
	T. E. Hibbert	Adams	
	G. U. Jones	Wymore	
1901	A. D. Spencer	Barneston	Gage and Saline
	T. E. Hibbert	Adams	Gage
	Henry Steinmeyer	Clatonia	Gage
	R. W. Laflin	Wymore	Gage
1903	W. E. Robbins	Cortland	Gage
	J. H. Ramsay	Filley	Gage
	S. S. Spier	Odell	Gage
	Herschel W. Smith	Tobias	Gage and Saline
1905	Robert K. Kyd	Beatrice	Gage and Saline
	James H. Casebeer	Blue Springs	Gage
	Adam McMullen	Wymore	Gage
	W. E. Robbins	Cortland	Gage
1907	Adam McMullen	Wymore	Gage
	C. W. McCullough	Blue Springs	Gage
	D. J. Killen	Adams	Gage
	C. H. Culdice	DeWitt	Gage and Saline
1909	B. H. Begole	Beatrice	Gage
	D. J. Killen	Adams	Gage
	Charles J. McColl	Beatrice	Gage
	Frank O. Ellis	Beatrice	Gage and Saline
1911	I. R. Clayton	Wymore	Gage
	H. Clyde Filley	Beatrice	Gage
	J. W. McKissick	Beatrice	Gage
	Anton Sagl	Wilber	Gage and Saline
1913	Charles F. Allen	Beatrice	Gage
	F. W. Schaupp	Virginia	Gage
1915	D. S. Dalby	Beatrice	Gage
	G. W. Burrows	Adams	Gage

STATE LEGISLATURE — SENATE

1867	Oscar Holden	Pawnee, Gage, Johnson, Clay, and Jones
1869	C. H. Gere	Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Lancaster
1871	A. J. Cropsey	Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Lancaster

1873	N. K. Griggs	Beatrice	
1875	N. K. Griggs	Beatrice	
1877	L. W. Colby	Beatrice	
1879	J. A. McMeans	Fairbury	Jefferson and Gage
1881	E. B. Harrington	Beatrice	
1883	Elijah Filley	Beatrice	
1885	W. H. Snell	Fairbury	
1887	L. W. Colby	Beatrice	
1889	J. W. Funck	Beatrice	
1891	G. F. Collins	Firth	
1893	Alex. Graham	Beatrice	
1895	Alex. Graham	Beatrice	
1897	G. A. Murphy	Beatrice	
1899	F. N. Prout	Beatrice	
1901	W. H. Edgar	Beatrice	
1903	L. M. Pemberton	Beatrice	
1905	H. W. L. Jackson	Beatrice	
1907	H. E. Sackett	Beatrice	
1909	Jacob Klein	Beatrice	
1911	Peter Jansen	Beatrice	
1913	Jacob Klein	Beatrice	Gage and Pawnee
1915	A. D. Spencer	Barneston	Gage and Pawnee
1917	Adam McMullen	Wymore	Gage and Pawnee

CHAPTER XXVIII

HOSPITALS

Institute for Feeble Minded Youths — Hepperlin's Hospital — New Lutheran Hospital — Fall's Sanitarium — The Mennonite Deaconess Home and Hospital.

A community is often distinguished by its beneficent institutions, both public and private. If the aphorism "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn," as the old school readers had it, then it must be equally true that man's humanity to man causes countless thousands to rejoice. Nothing is more indicative of the altruistic principle in human affairs than asylums and hospitals for the afflicted, the helpless, the hopeless. Though the commercial spirit may largely prevail in a community, there will always be found those to whom the cup of cold water given in kindness, the gentle word, the alleviation of pain and suffering, the care of the unfortunate, are more than gold, than much fine gold.

Beatrice is widely known on account of its being the site of the Institution for Feeble Minded Youths, as well as on account of its two private hospitals and a private sanitarium located within the city.

The state institution was created by act of the legislature of 1885, which became a law March 5th of that year. The second section of the act reads as follows:

Besides shelter and protection, the prime object of said institution shall be to provide special means of improvement for that unfortunate portion of the community who were born, or by disease have become, imbecile or feeble-minded, and by a wise and well adapted course of instruction reclaim them from their helpless condition, and, through the development of their intellectual faculties, fit them as far as possible for usefulness in society. To this end there shall be furnished them such agricultural and mechanical education as they may be capable of receiving.

The fourth section of the act provided for the location of the institution "at or near Beatrice and within two miles of the corporate limits of said city; Provided, that said city of Beatrice or the citizens thereof shall donate and convey to the state not less than forty (40) acres of land, near or through which runs a stream of living water sufficient to afford water supply for said institution, said site to be approved by the board of public lands and buildings."

Pursuant to this proviso, the money to purchase a site and thereby secure the location of the institution at Beatrice was readily subscribed by the citizens, amounting to the sum of $4,000, and the east ten acres of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 35 and the west thirty acres of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, in Midland township, were purchased and, by warranty deed, conveyed to the state as a site for this institution.

The ninth section of the act appropriated the sum of $50,000 for the purpose of constructing and furnishing a building for the use of the inmates, as provided by the act, and the tenth and last section reads as follows:

In order to create a fund for the support of said institution, there is hereby authorized and shall be made an annual tax levy on the taxable property of the state, not to exceed one-eighth (1/8) of one mill on the dollar; said fund shall be known as "The Fund of the Institution for the Feeble Minded."

Shortly after the passage of the act and the purchase and conveyance of the above-described tract of land to the state, work was begun on the first structure erected on these

grounds. It is now used and known as the administration building.

The act establishing the institution authorized the state board of public lands and buildings to appoint a superintendent for it, to whom was to be committed its control, and also provided for the appointment of a matron, teachers, and other employes. Dr. J. T. Armstrong was the first superintendent of the institution and his wife the first matron. It was to him more than to any other man that credit is due for the founding of this great charity, one of the very few of like character in the United States. He remained superintendent until his death. The Beatrice Institute for Feeble Minded Youths stands as

Stone Cottage

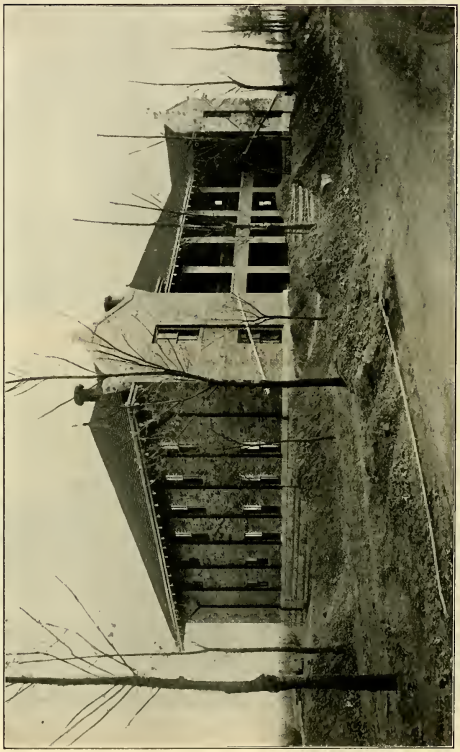
Boys' First Cottage

a lasting monument to the enthusiasm and benevolence of spirit of Dr. J. T. Armstrong, and to Frank M. Holt, who at that time represented Gage county in the legislature, and whose powerful and manly advocacy of his bill establishing the institution won him the respect and gratitude of the entire state. He died in November, 1891, on the day of his re-election to the office of clerk of the district court. Both he and Dr. Armstrong are buried in Evergreen Home cemetery. His grave is marked by a stone, the Doctor's by a monument.

Girls' First Cottage

Boys' Second Cottage

The first child was admitted to the institution May 24, 1887. It is a matter of history that Orion Rossman, a boy who is still an in-



GIRLS' SECOND COTTAGE

mate of the institution, was the third one admitted, he having entered on the 25th day of May, 1887.

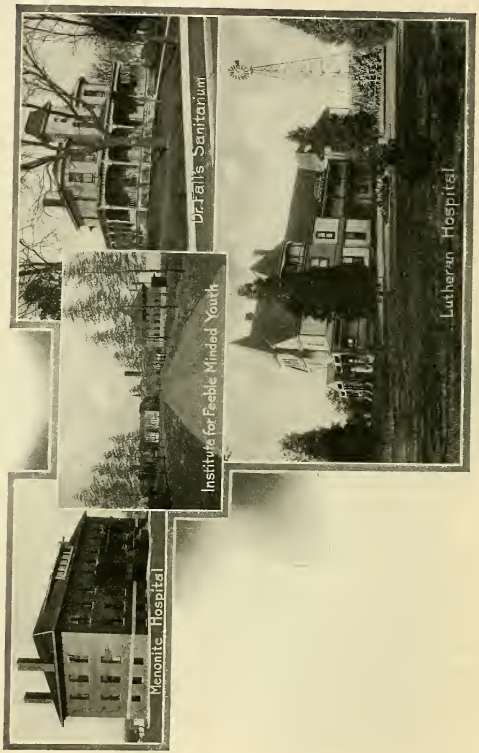
A number of prominent physicians have served the state as superintendent of the institution since the death of Dr. Armstrong. They are Dr. Clifford P. Fall, of Beatrice, Drs. Sprague, Deering, Johnson, Osbourne, G. L. Roe (also of Beatrice), Thomas, and Fast. Dr. D. G. Griffiths is the present superintendent, and under his able administration, the high record of efficiency in this important trust has been fully maintained.

The state has been most liberal in providing the necessary buildings and conveniences for these youthful but hopeless wards. In addition to the buildings here shown there are an up-to-date dairy, barn, laundry, store-room, bakery, engine house, pumping station for the water supply and a large stand pipe for water service to all the buildings as well as the grounds. By successive purchases the state now owns a fine body of fertile land, comprising three hundred acres, adjoining its original forty-acre tract, and the institution is in a large measure self-supporting. There is at this time a population of six hundred children at the institution, a population which is constantly increasing. Few are ever discharged except by death, and it is a matter of record that patients of this class are as a rule short-lived.

The state of Nebraska is entitled to the greatest possible credit for what it has done to alleviate the condition of these unfortunate children and to relieve their relatives from the great burden of their care.

In 1879 Dr. Harry M. Hepperlen established, at No. 1700 South Ninth street, a private hospital, which immediately secured a large patronage from the city and surrounding country. After several years of prosperous existence under its founder's personal care, it was purchased, in 1909, by the United Brethren church, which continued its beneficent mission until 1913, when it was sold to the Lutheran church. This organization has carefully nourished the plant, attracting a widely distributed patronage. The old building in which the hospital was first started, after some additions and changes had been made by Dr. Hepperlen, could accommodate twenty-five patients. But latterly these accommodations have been found insufficient, and the present owners are now erecting a modern hospital, to cost $150,000, and to be

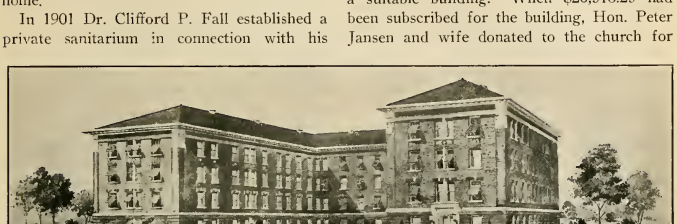
Hospital Building


Mennonite Hospital
Institute for Feeble Minded Youth
Dr. Falls Sanitarium
Lutheran Hospital

equipped with the latest and most modern appliances of every description for hospital work. It is the intention to spare no pains or expense to make it one of the most complete institutions of its kind in existence. It will be a fire-proof building and when opened to public patronage will contain one hundred beds. The new structure is located a little north of the old building and the latter will continue to be used, as a nurse's home.

In 1901 Dr. Clifford P. Fall established a private sanitarium in connection with his practice. It is located at No. 723 North Eleventh street. This institution has had a very successful and a very useful career. It contains twenty-five beds, has the service of eight nurses, and it is open to the use of other physicians and surgeons. Dr. Fall came to Beatrice a young man, in 1888; he is now a veteran in his profession and has achieved an enviable reputation both as a physician and a surgeon.

The Mennonite Deaconess Home and Hospital is located at Eleventh and Arthur streets. Its inception can be traced to a jubilee celebration held by the Beatrice Mennonites several years ago, for the purpose of praising the Lord for His merciful guidance during the twenty-five years of their settlement in this country of religious liberty. On this occasion the congregation was seized with a desire to make a special thanks-offering to God for all their blessings. It was at first proposed to establish a home for the aged, but it was finally determined to found a hospital, to be known as the Mennonite Deaconess Home and Hospital. By the congregation was chosen a board of directors consisting of twelve brethren, who went immediately to work, their first object being to raise the funds necessary to purchase a site and erect a suitable building. When $20,516.25 had been subscribed for the building, Hon. Peter Jansen and wife donated to the church for hospital purposes block 2 of Fairview Addition to Beatrice. The plans for the building were drawn by Richard W. Grant, architect, and the work of erecting the structure was begun during the year 1910. It was completed in 1911, and, with appropriate ceremonies, was dedicated to its work of mercy on July 16th of that year.



New Lutheran Hospital

The hospital is arranged to accommodate thirty patients, and these are cared for by the sisters in a faithful and conscientious manner. It employs from eight to ten nurses, and every effort is made to alleviate suffering, mitigate despair, and awaken hope in the breasts of the despondent and afflicted. With generous unselfishness and absolute impartiality, the management invites all practising physicians and surgeons to avail themselves of its facilities.

CHAPTER XX IX

MILITARY HISTORY OF GAGE COUNTY

Indian Raid on Little Blue River, 1864 — First Military Organization — A Stampede — Company C, Nebraska Militia — Sioux Indian War, 1891 — Gage County in the Civil War — The Spanish-American War — Roster of Company C, First Regiment — The World War.

The early annals of Gage county as respects military affairs have but little interest. The pioneers usually provided themselves with arms against the depredations of Indians and lawless persons, but within the boundaries of our county there is no well authenticated case of Indian troubles worthy of mention. The Otoe and Missouri tribes of Indians were at peace with the whites and were their allies against the encroachments of warlike tribes. Nevertheless, for a number of years the white population maintained an attitude of constant vigilance against surprises and attacks by marauding bands of savages, but until 1864 nothing like a military organization of any kind existed in the county.

That year, on Sunday, the 7th day of August, occurred what is known in Nebraska history as the Indian raid on the Little Blue river, in which several Gage county people lost their lives and property and in which the lives of many others were put in jeopardy. The Indians were Cheyennes, led by Black Kettle, One-Eyed George Bent, a half-breed, Two Face, and other chiefs. It had evidently been planned to attack the ranches and stage stations along the Oregon Trail simultaneously at a number of points, to kill the whites, destroy their property, and clear the Little Blue country as far as the Big Sandy. Patrick Burke, the first blacksmith of Beatrice, on his way up the old trail with a load of corn, about three o'clock in the afternoon, in plain sight of and within half a mile of Pawnee Ranch, was shot and killed. About the same hour an attack was made by a band of Cheyennes on Little Blue Station, or Comstock's Ranch, at Oak Grove, and J. H. Butler and M. C. Kelley, both Gage county men, were shot with arrows, and killed. A few miles further down the river the Eubank family was murdered, nine persons in all, and Mrs. Eubank, the wife of William Eubank, her child and Miss Laura Roper, a Gage county girl, were carried away into captivity. In May, 1865, while quartered at Laramie, General Tom Moonlight, afterward governor of Wyoming, when about to start on an expedition against the Indians, learned that two white women were with Two Face's band, near the south base of the Black Hills. Communication was opened with these Indians, and for a large number of ponies, blankets, a quantity of sugar and other things of value to the Indians, the white women were purchased from them and brought into Laramie, under an armistice, accompanied by Two Face and two of his best warriors. The women were Mrs. Eubank and Laura Roper. When the condition of Mrs. Eubank became known to General Moonlight, the armistice was violated — Two Face and his warriors were arrested and were hanged in chains, on a bluff two miles north of Fort Laramie, where their bodies remained until the crows had picked their bones. Thirty persons lost their lives at

the ranches and stage stations along the Little Blue river in this raid, and the first semblance of a military organization in Gage county was a company of its citizens hastily called together by the sheriff, Joseph Clyne, for the purpose of investigating the depredations of these savages, ascertaining the true condition of affairs, burying the dead killed in the massacre, and repelling the invasion.

As far as known the members of this company from Gage county were William H. Stoner, John Gilbert, Oliver Townsend, Albert C. Howe (half-brother of Church Howe), H. M. Wickham, William R. Jones, Daniel Freeman, Thomas Pethoud, James Pethoud, Enoch Graves, Henry Graves, Louis Graves, Ira Dixon, Leander Wilson, Samuel Jones, Richard C. Davis, William Alexander, Joseph Clyne, Edward Wells and his brother, from Cub creek, Mr. Bagley, also from Cub creek, and Theodore M. Coulter, a defaulting county treasurer and a prisoner in the custody of Sheriff Clyne. Stoner was elected captain of the company, and John Gilbert, who still lives, an honored citizen of Red Cloud, was chosen lieutenant. At Big Sandy this company of men was joined by a number of others, among them a man named Constable, who, in the battle which ensued, was killed, with another, whose name is not known. These men were well armed and well mounted, and, after passing Big Sandy, numbered thirty-four. On their way out they buried the dead, including Bill Kennedy, who had been killed in his cabin by the Indians, five of the Eubanks family, Kelley and Butler. They found all the principal ranches and stage stations between the Hackney Ranch and Pawnee Ranch burned, except Little Blue Station, where they found an abandoned wagon train of a hundred laden wagons, bound westward, and they found desolation and destruction everywhere. A detail of United States troops had been dispatched from Fort Kearney, under the command of Captain E. B. Murphy, to go over the Little Blue country on the same mission of the company from Beatrice, and the two companies met at Pawnee Ranch on the 14th day of August. The next day, under command of Captain Murphy, they started south in pursuit of the hostile Cheyennes, and came upon the Indians where the Fort Riley road crossed Elk creek, in northeastern Nuckolls county, ten miles south of Little Blue Station, in considerable numbers and in a warlike attitude. In the engagement which immediately ensued about three hundred warriors participated, while a still larger number appeared to be held in reserve. The entire band was moving toward the Republican river. Captain Murphy had a single field-piece, but it was disabled in firing the first round. He then deemed it best, in view of the number of Indians, to retreat and fall back to Little Blue Station, having lost two of his command. Having only limited rations, he abandoned further pursuit of the Indians and the Beatrice company returned home.

The excitement in Gage county over this Indian raid was intense. At Beatrice a sod breastwork was thrown up on the east bank of the Big Blue river, to defend the Market street ford, and, as far as possible, the men went armed and took other precautions to defend the city. The late summer and fall of 1864 was a period of great suspense and nervous strain. This is well illustrated by a stampede which occurred in the eastern portion of the county toward the end of August. One day, a little after noon, a couple of men in a lumber wagon, passed up Mud creek and reported that the Indians had attacked and were burning Blue Springs. They claimed also that they had been attacked, and, as proof, showed bullet holes in their wagon-box. About that time a confederate near Blue Springs set fire to a patch of prairie grass, and these strangers pointed to the smoke as a confirmation of their story. That was enough; the alarm spread like wildfire, and before sundown not a white person was left in Rockford, Filley, and Sherman townships. The settlers turned their hogs, cattle, and chickens loose to roam at will, loaded their women and children into wagons, and fled as best they could. That night most of them stopped on Yankee creek, about a mile west of Crab Orchard;

others went on to Brownville and Nebraska City. After a day or two a company of ten men ventured back to their homes and found that the settlers had been the victims of a practical joke.

The Little Blue country, however, continued to be dangerous ground, and a call was issued by Governor Saunders for four companies of territorial militia to be used in guarding traffic, travel and the Overland Stage line along the old trail from Big Sandy to Denver. One of these was Company C of the Second Brigade, First Regiment Nebraska Militia (cavalry), raised in Pawnee and Gage counties — Alvin G. White, of Pawnee City, captain; William B. Raper, of Pawnee City, first lieutenant; Dr. Levi Anthony, of Blue Springs, second lieutenant. The Gage county members of the company were:

Levi Anthony (second lieutenant), John Barrett, William Alexander, James Grant, Isaac Claiborne, William Aikens, Nelson Adams, Alvah Ayers, William T. Brown, Charles Bailey, Charles Buss, Edward Cartwright, Henry Corlett, William J. Dobbs, John H. Dunn, Josiah Eastman, David K. Fisher, John J. Fisher, Francis M. Graham, Henry Graves, Henry L. McMuford, Abraham P. McManis, Joel T. Mattingley, Joseph Milligan, Francis M. Reese, D. M. Shellanberger, Horace M. Wickham, James A. Wymore.

The company was mustered into the service of the state at Pawnee City, September 1, 1864, and was stationed at Buffalo Ranch, at the western end of Nine Mile Ridge, on Little Blue river, throughout the ensuing fall and winter, to guard the stage lines, ranches, stations and travel from Big Sandy to Fort Kearney. It performed this duty efficiently, was paid by the state, but rationed by the federal government, and disbanded, without being discharged, about February 7, 1865.

Our county took an honorable and efficient part in what is known as the Sioux Indian war, in 1890-1891. In that year there arose on the northwestern border of our state a religious disturbance amongst the Sioux Indians in South Dakota. A young, half-educated, Piute Indian, with a smattering knowledge of the Christian religion, appeared in Utah as the long expected Indian Messiah, who was to drive the whites from the ancient Indian hunting grounds, rejuvenate the aged and infirm, resurrect the dead, bring back to the hunting grounds the deer, buffalo and other wild game of the early days, and restore to the Indians the great northwest. This mischief-making imposter claimed to have received direct from the Great Spirit the revelation of the "Ghost Dance" as a means of spreading the knowledge of his mission abroad. This sacred rite was introduced among the powerful Sioux tribes of South Dakota at a moment when, on account of general drought, they were facing a great shortage of provisions. The subtle influence of these pretentions manifested itself at first in mutterings of discontent and finally in a general movement of large bodies of Indians from their agencies in almost open defiance of authority. The Indians of Standing Rock Agency, Big Foot's band from the Cheyenne River Agency, and the Brules at the Rosebud Agency, broke away from every semblance of control and, in open defiance of their agents' orders, refused to discontinue the dance. Disaffection was spreading to the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Agencies, which together comprised a compact body of more than ten thousand Indians, the most warlike in the northwest. In August, 1890, some of the local agents declared the situation to be beyond their control, and in November the president of the United States directed the secretary of war to take active measures to prevent an outbreak. Troops to the number of 8,000 were poured into the country and many of the Indians left their agencies and fled to the Bad Lands. With more than twenty-five thousand Indians in a state of semi-rebellion and nearly all infected by the Messiah craze and the Ghost Dance, and impatient of restraint, the inhabitants of northern Nebraska appealed to the governor of the state for protection.

By his direction, the adjutant general supplied fourteen independent military companies, organized in places along the northwes-

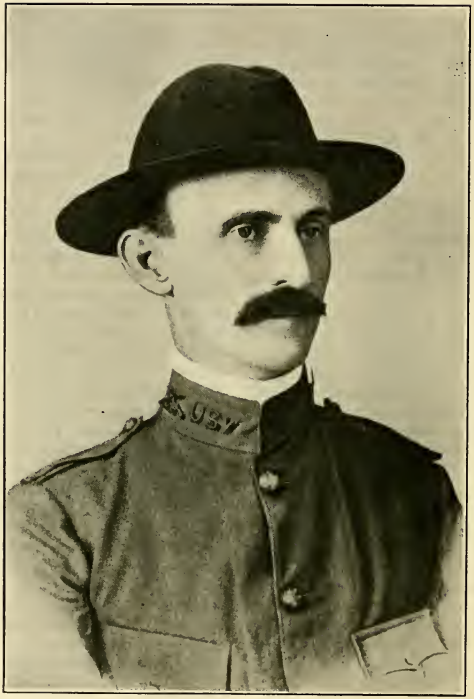
tern frontier, with Springfield breech-loading rifles, ammunition, and equipment, and in January, 1891, the two regiments of the Nebraska National Guard, under Brigadier General Leonard W. Colby, were ordered to the scene of action and stationed at or near the towns along the Elkhorn Railway, south of the Indian country. The guards did good service in quieting the fears of the people and in showing a readiness to afford protection in case of necessity.

Company C of the First Regiment was from Beatrice. It was commanded by A. A. Reed, was stationed during the Indian troubles at Valentine, Nebraska, and its services in this historic event closed the military activities of Gage county as respects Indian wars.

Our county participated to some extent in the great Civil war. The patriotic devotion of the territory of Nebraska to the Union throughout those trying days forms a most creditable chapter in its history. The news of the fall of Fort Sumter, in April, 1861, evoked a spirit of unbounded loyalty in the new territory. In Omaha steps were at once taken to aid the government by organizing two companies of infantry, one of dragoons and one of artillery. Governor Black appointed George F. Kennedy, of Florence, acting brigadier general of the First Nebraska Regiment, pending its organization and enrollment. Governor Saunders, who had succeeded to the executive chair, on May 18, 1861, issued his proclamation reciting the necessity of loyally supporting the government, and invoked the aid of every lover of his country and his home to sustain and protect it. Steps were immediately taken to organize a regiment, and on the 2d day of July, 1861, the tenth and last company of the First Nebraska Regiment of Volunteers were sworn into the service of the United States. Men were drawn from all over the territory into this regiment. From Gage county came Samuel Shaw, who enlisted in Company B, June 13, 1861; Frederick Elwood, aged twenty-three, who went from Beatrice and enlisted in Company H; Jonathan Potts, twenty-seven years old, also from Beatrice, enlisted in Company M. These heroic citizens of our county served faithfully until the end of the war, and all returned to Gage county to make their homes. Mr. Shaw some years ago went to Florida, where he died. Elwood and Potts, after many years' residence, both died in Gage county, much honored by all who knew their history. In addition to these, William, Egbert, and James Shaw (sons of Stephen P. Shaw), and John Q. Adams, from Adams township, served in this regiment, being members of Company H.

The county contributed also to the membership of the Second Nebraska Cavalry Regiment, organized in 1863, to repel an invasion by the Sioux Indians in their retreat from Minnesota, following the great massacres of August, 1862. This regiment was raised in eastern Nebraska and enlisted for nine months' service, under the command of Colonel Robert W. Furnas, of Brownville. It became a part of General Sully's expedition up the Missouri river, participating in the skirmishes and the battle of White Stone Hills, South Dakota, in which the Indians were completely vanquished. Those from Gage county who took part in this campaign, as members of Company L of the Second Nebraska, were Francis M. Graham, George W. Desert, H. S. Barnum, Edward Armstrong, Thaddeus Armstrong, and John Hagar, all of Blue Springs and vicinity.

Our county can take a just pride in the record made by its citizens in the Spanish-American war, in 1898. On April 20th of that year the United States presented its ultimatum to Spain, demanding that she relinquish sovereignty over Cuba before noon of April 23d and withdraw her land and naval forces from that unhappy island. Spain indignantly refused to comply with these demands, and on that day, at noon, President William McKinley issued a call for 135,000 volunteers in the military and naval service of the United States. On the 25th day of April congress issued its declaration of a state of war between Spain and the United States, and the call reached Lincoln, Nebraska, on the 27th of April. At noon of the following



Colonel John M. Stotsenberg
Killed in action in the Philippines, April 23, 1899

day the companies of the First Nebraska, including Company C, of Beatrice, went into camp at Camp Alvin Saunders, Lincoln. This regiment was mustered into service beginning on the 9th day of May; on June 5th it was aboard the steamer "Senator," at San Francisco, bound for the orient; and on July 17th, the city of Manila lay spread out before its members, from their vessel's anchorage in Manila Bay. The regiment disembarked on the 21st day of July, at Cavite, and remained in camp until August 2d, when it participated in the assault on the outposts of Manila, in which eight Nebraskans were wounded. On August 13th the regiment took an active part in the assault and capture of the city of Manila. From that time until February it was on outpost and guard duty about Manila, while Aguinaldo's rebellion was rapidly gathering head. On February 4, 1899, while stationed opposite block house No. 6, near the waterworks, on Pasig river, a squad of four armed Filipinos attempted to pass the American line. Private Grayson, of the First Nebraska, stood guard there, and when the Filipinos refused to halt, he fired on them His fire was returned by the insurrectos, and the war of the Philippines was on. The regiment rushed to the defense of its outposts, the Filipinos attacking with vigor, and this action is known as the first battle of Santa Mesa.

The regiment participated with great renown in the second battle of Santa Mesa, February 20th; the battle of Maraquana Roads, March 5th and 6th; the advance on Mallolos; the capture of Francisco del Monte, Meycangua, Ste. Marie, Ste. Clara, March 25th; the battle of Quingua, April 23d; the battles of Calumpit, Santa Thomas, San Fernando and Calocan, May 6, 1899. Perhaps the battle of Quingua was the most sanguinary conflict in which the regiment was engaged. Amongst those who fell that day was John M. Stotsenberg, the colonel of the regiment.

The regiment sailed from Manila July 21st and reached San Francisco July 29th, went into camp at the Presidio July 30th, and was mustered out and discharged August 23, 1899, after a service of one year, three months, and fourteen days. Its losses were: Killed in battle, twenty-one; died of wounds, thirteen; died of disease, thirty — a total of sixty-four.

Company C reached Beatrice September 1, 1899, and was given a royal reception by the entire population. The roster of this company is as follows:

Captain

Hollingworth, Albert H.

First Lieutenants

Archer, Harry L.
Storch, Joseph A.

Second Lieutenants

McLaughlin, Warren L.
Wheedon, Burt D.
Dungan, William B.
Coleman, Garrett F.

First Sergeants

Wadsworth, Andrew S.
Reedy, William H.

Quartermaster's Sergeants

Pethoud, Logan L.
Johnson, Hans

Sergeants

Curtis, Orrin T.
Geddes, George L.
Hall, John A.
Murdock, Harry S.
Evans, William J.
Peters, Lehman C.
Johnson, Hans
Dudley, Howard S.

Corporals

Evans, William J.
Cook, Erastus
Bick, Frederick
Bloodgood, Edwin E.
Langdon, Oliver H.
Holbert, Andrew F.
Jones, Sherman
Truax, George Lester
Hall, Sherrill W.
Tyson, Jesse
Baird, Jesse P.
Schultz, Hugo D.

Putt, Philip C.
Peters, Lehman C.
Hall, William G.

Musicians

Stevenson, Arthur E.
Baird, Jesse P.
Roller, John S.
Tucker, Luther I.
McHugh, Joseph D.

General Roster

Ashenfelter, James L.
Ashley, Clifford L.
Beal, Eugene
Butler, Charley C.
Bick, John W.
Bowling, William W.
Bradshaw, James A.
Brewster, Charles L.
Brownell, Mike
Ball, Louis
Bowling, George I.
Barry, Joseph J.
Bloodgood, Edwin E.
Campbell, Robert
Campbell, Roy C.
Clark, Frank M.
Condon, William
Cook, Fred
Davis, Everett
Drake, Neal C. A.
Druigman, William F.
Dudley, Howard S.
Field, Charles
Folden, Charles F.
Folden, James R. C.
Gable, Louis M.
Gashaw, Nelson S.
Griffith, Norman
Hall, William G.
Hall, Sherrill W.
Hileman, Wilbert S.
Holbert, Andrew F.
Hutson, Edward J.
Harris, Frank
Johnson, Hans
Johnson, William
Jones, Charley C.
Jones, Sherman
Knouse, Frank M.
Kuhn, Fred C.
Langdon, Oliver H.
Litty, Fred L.
Macy, Bruce E.
Meeker, Orrie A.
McHugh, Joseph D.
McDaniel, Charles L.
McDonough, Michael L.
Nelson, Linus C.
Olinghouse, Henry I.
Owen, Frank
Ozman, Roscoe C.
Ossowski, Paul
Penrod, Jesse C.
Peters, Lehman C.
Peters, Martin L.
Pinson, Will H.
Powers, Mark
Putt, Phillip C.
Quein, John R.
Ragland, Simeon W.
Ray, Alpheus
Reedy, William H.
Roller, John S.
Riordan, John J.
Rungan, Charles
Shultz, Hugo D.
Scott, Marion F.
Smith, Elmer W.
Spott, Thomas
Staker, Will C.
Sterne, William A.
Tatman, Harry E.
Thompson, Earl W.
Tucker, Luther I.
Tyson, Jesse
Watts, Bert W.
Willey, Frank
Wilson, John E.

Recruits

Ackerman, Paul August
Avey, Sherman H.
Burnham, Lyvenus S.
Boomer, George R.
Bishop, Fred W.
Chevrout, James W.
Epp, Henry Martin
Franklin, C. M.

Logsdon, William
Miller, Julius G.
Morris, Robert B.
Nelson, Julius M.
Pillsbury, John W.
Rowland, Ira C.
Salisbury, Clayton L.
Shaw, Herman C.
Smock, Harry O.
Stambough, William H.
Stout, Ira P.
Stout, Walter I.
Tilton, Winfield S.
Truax, George Lester
Ward, Peter
Woodbridge, William E.

Promoted

Harry L. Archer, First Lieutenant, Regimental Adjutant.

W. R. McLaughlin, Second Lieutenant, Regimental Quartermaster.

Bert D. Wheedon, Second Lieutenant, Regimental Adjutant.

Andrew S. Wadsworth, First Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, Company B.

Orrin T. Curtis, First Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, Company L.

Wounded

A. H. Hollingworth, Captain, wounded in right forearm and right thigh, near Mariquina, P. I., February 17, 1899.

J. A. Storch, First Lieutenant, wounded in right arm, at San Francisco del Monte, P. I., March 25, 1899.

B. D. Wheedon, Second Lieutenant, wounded in right hip, near Mariquina, P. I., February 17, 1899.

W. G. Dungan, Second Lieutenant, wounded near Quingua, P. I., April 24, 1899.

Orrin T. Curtis, First Sergeant, wounded in right hand, at Santa Mesa, P. I., February 4, 1899.

Jesse P. Baird, Corporal, wounded in left hand, at Marilao, P. I., March 29, 1899.

Chas. Brewster, Corporal, wounded in right foot, at Calumpit, P. I., April 25, 1899.

John S. Roller, Artificer, wounded in left arm, at Quingua, P. I., April 23, 1899.

Henry Epp, wounded in left shoulder, at Santa Mesa, P. I., February 5, 1899.

Fred C. Kuhn, wounded in left thigh, at waterworks, P. I., February 6, 1899.

Roscoe C. Ozman, wounded in right forearm, at San Francisco del Monte, P. I., March 25, 1899.

Roy C. Campbell, wounded in left ankle, at Guiguinto, P. I., March 29, 1899.

George R. Boomer, wounded in left forearm, near Guiguinto, P. I., March 30, 1899.

Lyvenus S. Burnham, wounded in left shoulder, near Guiguinto, P. I., March 30, 1899.

William Logsdon, wounded in right lung, near Guiguinto, P. I., March 30, 1899.

Bert W. Watts, wounded in left thigh, near Guiguinto, P. I., March 30, 1899.

Dead

William G. Evans, Sergeant, died of blood poison, at Cavite, P. I., July 24, 1898.

George L. Geddes, Sergeant, died of spinal meningitis, at sea, June 21, 1898.

Bruce E. Macy, wounded in action at Marilao, P. I., March 29, 1899, died April 20, 1899.

Julius G. Miller, died of spinal meningitis, at Honolulu, October 20, 1898.

Frank Knouse, drowned in Pasig river, December 15, 1898.

The members of Company C of the First Nebraska were the only Gage county people who saw active service in the Philippine war. General Leonard W. Colby, of Beatrice, at the beginning of the war, was appointed brigadier general and assigned to a command at Anniston, Georgia. His brigade, however, was never called into service.

But all other military achievements to which Gage county may justly lay claim, pale into insignificance before its activities in the present great world war. Scarcely had the declaration of war with Germany been made by congress, in April, 1917, when historic Company C of the Nebraska National Guard, of Beatrice, commanded by Captain Charles L. Brewster, presented itself for volunteer service. At Wymore, Company F, command-

ed by Captain F. E. Crawford, and composed almost wholly of Gage county volunteers, left Wymore September 20, 1918, for military training at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico. Prior to the taking effect of the draft act of congress, many others volunteered in the army and navy of the United States for service in this the greatest and most terrible of all wars. Under the draft act, many more of Gage county's young men have been drawn into the service. The figures are not at hand to show the number of our county's citizens now serving under our country's flag in the war waged for the preservation of democratic institutions throughout the world. Including both branches of the service, it is approximately 1200. Many are already in France, a few have made the supreme sacrifice for human liberty, and many others may yet do so. Besides its man-power, the county has generously contributed of its wealth for the prosecution of this war of embattled nations. The full record of the county's patriotic contributions in this crucial epoch of the world's history must needs be left to the consideration of some later historian.

CHAPTER XXX

THE BENCH AND THE BAR

Territorial Supreme Court — Territorial District Courts — Chief Justice Ferguson — Associate Justices — First Session Supreme Court — First Term District Court — First Judicial Legislation — Gage County's First District Judge — First Term District Court in Gage County — Second Term—First Grand Jury — First Embezzlement — First Murder—Third Term District Court — First Petit Jury — First Divorce Case—State Supreme Court — State District Courts — Act Admitting Attorneys — First Lawyers in Gage County — Brief Sketches of Former Members of the Bar — Present Members

The organic act by which the territory of Nebraska was created and under which it was organized, vested the judicial power of the territory in a supreme court, district courts, probate and justice-of-the-peace courts. With respect to the supreme court, it was provided that this high tribunal should consist of a chief justice and two associate justices, to be appointed by the president of the United States, by and with the consent of the senate. Any two of the justices, the act specified, should constitute a quorum. They were required to hold one term of court annually at the seat of the territorial government, and continued in office for a period of four years, or until their successors were appointed and had qualified. Their salaries were fixed at the sum of two thousand dollars per annum, to be paid out of the public treasury at Washington, and they were given authority to appoint a clerk, who held office at the pleasure of the justices and who was paid by the fees of his office.

The act further provided that the territory should be divided into three judicial districts and that a term of court should be held annually in each district, by one of the judges of the supreme court, at such times and places as should be prescribed by law. Each judge was authorized to appoint a clerk of the court for his district, "who should also be a register in chancery and should keep his office at the place where the court may be held". Clerks of the district court, like the clerk of the supreme court, held office at the pleasure of the judge appointing them, and were paid by the fees of their respective offices.

Section 17 of the organic act provided that, until otherwise provided by law, the governor of the territory might define the judicial districts "and assign the judges who may be appointed for the territory to the several districts, and also appoint the times and places for holding courts in the several counties or subdivisions in each of said judicial districts, by proclamation to be issued by him; but the legislative assembly, at their first or any subsequent session, may organize, alter or modify such judicial districts, and assign the judges, and alter the times and places of holding courts, as to them shall seem proper and convenient."

In June, 1854, President Buchanan appointed James Bradley, of Pennsylvania, associate justice of the territorial supreme court of Nebraska; in July following, Edward Randolph Harden was appointed associate justice of that court; and on October 12th President Buchanan appointed Fenner Ferguson, of the state of New York, chief justice of the court.

Immediately upon his appointment Judge

Ferguson moved his family to Bellevue, where he resided until his death. He was very active in assisting the legislative assembly to frame and adopt the first code of laws enacted for the government of Nebraska Territory and in otherwise placing it in a going condition. Acting within the scope of his authority, Acting-Governor Cuming had by executive proclamation provisionally organized the territor-

FENNER FERGUSON
First chief justice of the Nebraska Territorial supreme court

ial courts by assigning Chief Justice Ferguson to the first judicial district, as established by his proclamation. This district embraced Dodge and Douglas counties. The second district, as marked out by the proclamation, embraced the entire South Platte portion of the territory, and the third, the counties of Burt and Washington. Associate Justice Harden was assigned to the second, and Associate Justice Bradley to the third district. The proclamation provided for the holding of a term of the supreme court at the seat of government on the third Monday of February, 1855; in the first district, at Bellvue, on the second Monday in March, 1855; in the second district, at Nebraska City, the third Monday in March, and in the third district, at Florence, the first Monday in April, 1855.

Pursuant to this proclamation, the first session of the territorial supreme court met in Omaha — which had been selected by Acting-Governor Cuming as the capital of the new territory — on the 19th day of February, 1855, and remained in session until the 6th day of March following. Chief Justice Ferguson presided, and during most of the session both associate justices appear to have been in attendance; a part of the time, though, we are informed, Justice Harden was ill, at his lodgings at Bellevue. J. Sterling Morton, of Bellevue, was appointed clerk of the court. On the last day of the term, just before adjournment, on motion of Attorney General Estabrook, a number of applicants were admitted to practice law in the courts of the territory, amongst them being Andrew J. Poppleton, Andrew J. Hanscom, and Silas A. Strickland, all of whom became closely identified with the early history of Nebraska. But, on the whole, this first term of the territorial supreme court was largely a formal matter, for the purpose of effecting an organization and keeping the letter of the acting governor's proclamation.

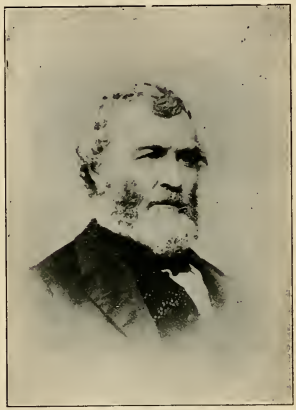
The first term of district court in the new territory was also largely for the same purposes. It was opened at Bellevue, the oldest town in Nebraska, then situated in Douglas county, now in Sarpy county, by Chief Justice Ferguson, as judge of the first territorial judicial district, on the 12th day of March, 1855. Eli R. Doyle, marshal of the territory, was present in his official capacity, and the court appointed Silas A. Strickland, of Bellevue, clerk of the court. Several applications were made for naturalization papers by foreign-born residents of the territory and, no other important business coming before the court, an adjournment was taken until April 12, 1855.

In accordance with section 17 of the organic act, which devolved upon the legislature the

duty of permanently establishing the courts of the territory, defining their jurisdiction and dividing Nebraska into judicial districts, the first legislative assembly, which convened at Omaha on the 16th day of January, 1855, having adopted in part the Iowa code of civil procedure, proceeded to enact a body of general laws, amongst which were several acts or parts of acts defining the powers and duties of the several courts of the territory and prescribing their jurisdiction. The legislative enactment constituted the district courts the great trial courts of the territory. They were given exclusive and original jurisdiction of all suits at law and chancery, except such as were within the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace and such matters as were by express enactment committed to the jurisdiction of the probate courts, and for the inferior courts it was given appellate jurisdiction. The supreme court was given appellate jurisdiction in all decrees in chancery, and was a court of last resort to which writs of error could be addressed from all final judgments at law tried by the district courts. In other words, the final judgments and decrees of the members of the court, sitting as judges of the district courts, were subject to review by the entire bench on appeals or writs of error.

Amongst other things, the legislative body divided the territory into three judicial districts, the first of which comprised Washington and Douglas counties; the second, Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass, Lancaster, Green (now Seward), Clay, Pawnee, Johnson, York and Gage; the third comprised the counties of Dakota, Buffalo, Cuming, Burt, Dodge, Loupe (now Colfax), Blackbird (now Thurston in part), Izard (now Wayne), Jackson (now the north third of Gage), and McNeal (now Stanton) counties. Chief Justice Ferguson was assigned to the first district, Associate Justice Harden to the second district, and Associate Justice Bradley to the third district. The legislative assembly designated also the time and place for holding court in the three judicial districts. In the second district, it provided that court should be held in the county of Cass on the first Mondays of April and September, in Otoe county on the second Mondays, in Nemaha county on the third Mondays, and in Richardson county on the fourth Mondays of April and September in each year, and "in all other counties in said district at such times and places as the judge may appoint."

As respects Gage county, there is no known evidence that Associate Justice Harden ever called a term of court in the county. He was a southern gentleman of the old school. He



JAMES BRADLEY
Associate Justice of the Nebraska Territorial Supreme Court

was born and educated in Georgia and was appointed associate justice of the supreme court of the territory of Nebraska in July, 1854, when he was thirty-nine years of age. In May, 1860, he was appointed to a like position in Utah, by James Buchanan, who was then president of the United States. He held the first term of court in his district, as far as known, at Nebraska City, in March, 1855, and left the territory probably before Gage county had any demand for a term of district court. He returned to Georgia in time to participate in the famous secession convention of that state, in 1861, and on the breaking out of the

civil war he enlisted in the Confederate army as commander of a company known as the Dalton Guards; he was afterward made adjutant of Smith's Legion. He later served as an aide on General Walker's staff, and on the close of the war he resumed the practice of the law, at Cuthbert, Georgia. He served two terms in the legislature of his state, as a representative from Walker county, and held other honorary and remunerative positions. He appears to have been a man of ability and integrity. He died at Quitman, Georgia, in 1884, at the age of sixty-nine years.

EDWARD RANDOLPH HARDEN
Associate Justice of the Nebraska Territorial Supreme Court

There exists no record of the holding of a term of the territorial district court in Gage county prior to the 26th day of November, 1863. Elmer S. Dundy, of Falls City, was appointed associate justice of the supreme court by Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States, in the early part of 1863, and was assigned to the Second judicial district. The first record in the district-court records of the county, written in Judge Dundy's own hand, reads as follows:

Be It Remembered, that at the Fall adjourned term of the Gage County District Court of Nebraska Territory, held at Beatrice in said County, on the 25th day of November, A. D., 1863, the said court having been adjourned from the first Thursday after the first Monday in September, to the 26th day of November, 1863, the following named officers were present, towit:

Elmer S. Dundy, Judge
Rienzi Streeter, Clerk, by
Oliver Townsend, Deputy,
C. B. R. E., Prosecuting Atty.,
Joseph Kline, Shff.

and the following proceedings were had, towit:

C. B. R. E. was admitted to practise law in the several District Courts of this Territory, after full examination in open court, he having been first duly sworn, according to law.

On motion of Aug. Schoenheit, J. Wilson Bolinger was admitted, on certificate, to practice law in the several Judicial Districts of this Territory, having been first duly sworn, according to law.

The said sheriff returns into open court the venire heretofore issued for petit jury, and the jury being called, the following named persons were present and answered to their names:

Wm. Blakely,
John Badly (Bagley)
Sam'l Kilpatrick,
H. J. Pierce,
J. E. Chase,
Adam Hager,
H. M. Wickham,

and there being no business before the Court, were thereupon discharged.

Most of the business before the court was of slight importance. There were three indictments pending for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, one for "malicious mischief," and a charge of riot, all of which were dismissed by the prosecuting attorney "C.B. R.E."

The civil business disposed of by Judge Dundy included nineteen cases, one of the important ones being that of Gideon Bennett vs. William W. Dennison. Bennett, the reader will remember, was an Indian trader who followed the Otoe and Missouri Indian tribes from Nebraska City to their Gage county reservation in 1855, and Dennison, the defendant in the case, was the government agent of the Indians until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he left the territory, and afterwards became identified with the Confederacy. The action was upon a claim for money due to plaintiff from defendant, and had been accompanied by an order of attachment which had

been levied by the sheriff upon property belonging to Major Dennison. The record shows that the defendant had died during the pendency of the suit, and John W. Latham had been appointed administrator of his estate. The suit was revived against the administrator and judgment entered for the plaintiff in the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars and costs, the sheriff being directed to sell the attached property in satisfaction of same.

Perhaps the most important case disposed of by the court was that entitled Theodore Hill, Plaintiff, vs. The Central Overland and Pike's Peak Express Company, Defendant. This action also was upon indebtedness claimed to be due plaintiff from defendant, and the property of defendant, consisting of a number of horses, "two with docked tails"; a nine-passenger, four-horse coach, named "Red Rover"; two four-mule teams, and other chattels, had been taken by Sheriff Clyne, in satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim. A jury was waived by both parties to the suit, trial had to the court and judgment entered for plaintiff against the defendant in the sum of $1,395.67, and the sheriff was directed to sell the attached property in satisfaction thereof.

The second term of district court held in Gage county convened in Beatrice on the 7th day of September, 1865.

"Present; Elmer S. Dundy, Judge,
Rienzi Streeter, Clerk,
by H. M. Reynolds, Deputy,
Joseph Clyne, Shff.,
J. B. Mattingley, Deputy Shff."

The preliminary entries, after reciting the failure of the county to select a grand jury as by law required, directs the sheriff to call by four o'clock in the afternoon "sixteen good and lawful men, possessing the qualifications of electors in said county, to serve as grand jurors for the present term, according to law in such case made and provided."

The record further recites that the following named persons appeared as grand jurors at four o'clock in the afternoon of that day, namely:

R. C. Davis	J. Hinton
John Alexander	John T. Pethoud
William Alexander	Michael Conley
Wm. Tichnor	Wm. McCumsey
Amasa Stevens	Orrin Stevens
Jacob Shaw	Edward Cartwright
Joseph L. Brown	John Q. Adams
A. D. Sage	F. Raper

As far as the records of the district court go, this appears to have been the first grand jury called in Gage county. The term lasted a single day, but the grand jurors returned indictments against Alexander Dean, for murder in the first degree; Theodore M. Coulter, for embezzlement; and John Fishpaugh, Peter Buckles, Scott Willis and Henry Willis, for assault with intent to commit murder. One of the cases tried and decided by Judge Dundy was the County of Gage vs. Theodore M. Coulter, an action brought by the county to recover against Coulter the sum of $547.98 embezzled by him while county treasurer. The defendant made default in the case and a judgment was entered for the county against him and his bondsmen for that amount, and he was almost immediately indicted for embezzlement.

Coulter was arrested upon this indictment and he was held a prisoner by the sheriff for nearly three years. There was no jail where he could be kept and the sheriff was compelled to board and care for him at the county's expense. It was often very inconvenient for the sheriff to guard or otherwise hold his prisoner in custody. Following the great Indian raid on the Little Blue river in August, 1864, the sheriff, Joseph Clyne, was a member of a company from Beatrice who went on an expedition to the stricken section of the territory, to bury the dead and assist in repelling further invasion. He was compelled to take his prisoner along, as he could find no one willing to have him in charge. After the excitment had abated and Coulter's bondsmen had liquidated his defalcation, the expense of providing for the prisoner and of bringing him to trial outweighed all other considerations and by common consent every opportunity was given him to escape. As a prisoner he was very

much of a man of leisure, the board was good and he was clothed, fed, and sheltered at public expense. He sensed the situation perfectly, talked largely about his innocence and forcing the county to bring him to trial, and made not the slightest move toward relieving the community of his emabrrassing presence. At last, in sheer desperation, he was placed in the custody of the deputy sheriff, James B. Mattingley, and by the deputy was removed to his home in Rockford township a few miles north of Blue Springs. At this home he received a meager fare and a poor quality of meals. After a few weeks Coulter took the hint and disappeared. No one ever made the slightest effort to apprehend him, and thus ended the first embezzlement case in Gage county.

The indictment of Dean for murder was also largely a farcical matter, though in a more advanced state of society he would no doubt have been immediately arrested and punished. His victim was Spencer Roberts, who owned and lived upon the tract of land where Crab Orchard is now located. He had sold to Andrew Dean, a Dane living on Cub creek, near the "First Homestead," a horse and had taken his note for sixty dollars in settlement for the animal. Roberts, who was a cattle-buyer and stock dealer, called at Dean's house in his absence, to collect the note, and it was alleged he attempted to be familiar with his debtor's wife. She repelled his advances and Roberts left the premises. He afterward returned to the house and found Dean and his neighbor, Thomas Clyne, engaged in threshing wheat with flails. He was upon the point of leaving when Dean's wife attempted to assault him, and Dean, then learning the identity of the man who had insulted her, his wife claimed, grabbed his flail and rushed to attack Roberts. Clyne stepped between the men and caught Dean's hand when in the act of striking with the flail, but the short end of the bludgeon struck Roberts, fracturing his skull, from which injury he soon expired. No effort was made to apprehend Dean and he soon disappeared. His indictment was more to save the face of the community than for any definite purpose of bringing him to punishment. This was the first murder of a white person in Gage county of which there is any known evidence, and Dean's indictment was the first one returned by a grand jury in the county, all previous criminal prosecutions having been within the jurisdiction of the justice court or, where the offense charged was beyond the jurisdiction of the justice and the offender had been bound over, no indictment or prosecution followed, a procedure illustrated in the actions of the prosecuting attorney in dismissing six criminal cases pending before Judge Dundy at the first term of the Gage county district court in 1863.

Judge Dundy continued to hold the office of associate justice of the territorial supreme court until Nebraska was admitted into the Union, March 1, 1867. At the general election of 1866, in contemplation of the change from territorial to state government, William A. Little, of Omaha, was elected chief justice of the supreme court and George B. Lake and Lorenzo Crounse, both of Omaha, were elected associate justices. Before taking office Little died and his opponent at the election, Oliver P. Mason, of Nebraska City, was appointed by Governor Butler (the first of the state governors) chief justice in his stead, to serve until the next general election, when he was elected chief justice of the supreme court of the state of Nebraska.

By an act of the state legislature, approved June 12, 1867, the boundaries of the judicial districts were changed, and the counties of Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Fillmore, and Nuckolls, with the unorganized territory to the west, were designated as the First judicial district. The first term of the Gage county district court after Nebraska territory became the state of Nebraska, was held by Judge Mason, at Beatrice, beginning the 7th day of October, A.D., 1867. The introductory entries are in Judge Mason's own handwriting, and read as follows:

Be it Remembered, That at a regular term

of the District Court of the First Judicial District, sitting within and for Gage County,

Present O. P. Mason, Judge,
Isham Reavis, Dist. Attorney,
Rienzi Streeter, Clerk,
by H. M. Reynolds, Deputy
W. T. Brown, Sheriff,
T. J. Chesney, Deputy Sheriff,
Daniel Freeman, Bailiff.

The following proceedings were had and done: The court having been opened at the time prescribed by law by the sheriff making public proclamation thereof, N. K. Griggs and S. B. Harrington were admitted to practice law in the several District Courts of the State, having been first duly sworn, according to law.

The said sheriff returns in open court a venire heretofore issued for a Grand Jury, and the jury being called, the following named persons were present and answered to their names, viz:

Richard Rossiter	A. Van Buskirk
Peter Hamma	H. D. Lilley
George Stark	H. M. Wickham
Sam'l Kilpatrick	J. M. Rodgers
J. B. Shaw	John Parker
N. Kain	H. Hollingworth
John Mumford	Alex. Welch

Absent J. J. Dunbar and A. D. Sage. A. D. Sage was excused on account of sickness, and Alexander Welch was found not qualified to act as a juror, on account of being a foreigner, and an attachment was ordered for J. J. Dunbar.

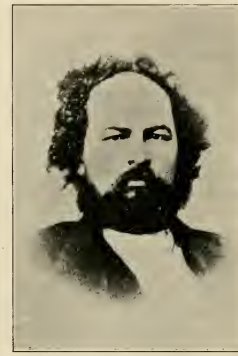
The following named persons were then summoned by the sheriff to serve as Grand Jurors and fill the panel, to wit: F. E. Roper, Christian Euster and George H. Ross.

After the Grand Jurors had all been examined by the Court touching their qualifications as such, H. M. Wickham was duly sworn as Foreman of the Grand Jury, after which the other Grand Jurors were all sworn in the oath provided by law, and after being charged by the Court retired in charge of Daniel Freeman, a sworn bailiff, to consider their indictments and their presentments.

The said sheriff also returned into open court a venire heretofore issued for a petit jury, and the jury being called, the following named persons were present and answered to their names, to-wit:

R. C. Davis	John Barrett
J. W. Mumford	Henry Shullenbarger
L. P. Chandler	F. H. Dobbs
Jacob Hildebrand	David Palmer
Amos Hayden	H. S. Barnum
Frederick Sprague	John Hillman
James Kinzie	J. W. Nickols
James Plucknett	John Lyons
Alfred Snell	William Curtiss
V. S. Whittemore	Egbert Shaw
Robert Nicholas	J. Buchanan
R. A. Wilson	William Wild

As far as disclosed by the records this was the first petit jury ever empaneled in the district court in Gage county. The term lasted two days and it must have run day and night, as a large amount of business was transacted by Judge Mason. Amongst the cases tried by him at this term was that of Hester Drown vs.



OLIVER P. MASON
First Chief Justice of the Nebraska State Supreme Court

George W. Drown, action for divorce. It was tried on the last day of the term, September 9th, and a divorce was denied the plaintiff and awarded the defendant, on account of plaintiff's proved moral deliquencies. This was the first divorce suit ever tried in Gage county.

After empaneling the jury the following order was made by the court: "Ordered that the sheriff of Gage county purchase for the use of the district court within and for Gage county, twelve chairs of good and substantial material and make, and that the same be pur-

chased at the expense of the said county of Gage."

Within the two days' session of the court occurred the trial of The People of the State of Nebraska vs. John Fishpaugh, Peter Buckles and John Scott Willis, indicted for riot. The jury empaneled to try the case were Jacob W. Mumford, Jacob Hildebrand, Frederick Sprague, James Kinzie, James Plucknett, Alfred Snell, Robert Nicholas, V. S. Whittemore, John Hillman, F. H. Dobbs, David Palmer, and John Lyons.

"After hearing the evidence introduced as well on the part of said prisoners as on the part of the People of the State of Nebraska, and after hearing the arguments of counsel and the charge of the court, the jury retired in charge of a sworn officer to consider their verdict. And after consulting and deliberating thereon, returned into court the following verdict:

'We, the jury, find the defendants, John Fishpaugh, Peter Buckles and John Scott Willis, guilty as they stand charged in the indictment. F. H. Dobbs, Foreman'."

This was the first trial jury empaneled and this the first verdict rendered by a jury in the district court of Gage county.

From 1867 to 1873 Judge Mason, chief justice of the supreme court, was the district judge of the First judicial district of Nebraska, and was succeeded by Daniel Gantt. The state supreme court retained its original territorial organization until the adoption of the present state constitution, in 1875. By its provision, district judges were elected and members of the supreme court ceased to be trial judges in the judicial districts. The first district judge of the First judicial district under the constitution was Archibald J. Weaver, of Falls City. He was elected to this office at the general election in 1875 and reëlected in 1879. Before his second term expired, at the general election in 1883, he was elected to the Forty-eighth congress from the old First congressional district, and in the fall of 1885 he was reëlected, to the Forty-ninth congress. He was a man of great force of character, of indefatigable energy and of unquestioned integrity of character. He was kindly, generous, hospitable, and one of the most companionable of men. He was of such striking appearance and commanding physique as to attract attention in any crowd. His career as a judge in the old First judicial district will never be forgotten while a single member of the bar of that district who appeared in his court remains alive. His power in the dispatch of judicial business was phenomenal and his court ran at high pressure by day and a part of every night. He had remarkable sagacity in divining the intents and purposes of men and any crooked or fraudulent deal never got by him, so far as any lawyer ever knew. He contracted a slight attack of pneumonia and, after an illness of three days, died April 18, 1887, when in the prime of life and ere he had approached the zenith of his great powers and usefulness. Perhaps no man in Nebraska had been so showered with honors and few, if any, ever had a future of greater possibilities.

Judge Weaver was succeeded on the bench of the First judicial district by Jefferson H. Broady, of Brownville, at the election of 1883.

Judge Broady served the district most faithfully for four years. Before the expiration of his term of office the legislature of 1887 authorized the election of two judges for the First judicial district, and at the fall election that year Judge Broady was reëlected, and with him Thomas Appleget, of Tecumseh. At the close of his term of office Judge Broady retired from the bench, honored and respected by the entire bar of the First judicial district, having for eight busy years given power, dignity and honor to the bench of the district. He had been living in Beatrice for three or four years but in 1901 he removed to Lincoln and re-engaged in the practice of the law. He died a few years ago, mourned by almost the entire state.

In 1891 the legislature redistricted the state as respects the judicial districts. The boundaries of the old First judicial district of Weaver's and Broady's day, which comprised Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee and Gage, was changed to include Jefferson county. The

provision for the election of two judges in the district was retained, and at the general election of 1891 Albert H. Babcock and James E. Bush, both of Beatrice, were elevated to the judicial district bench. In 1895 Charles B. Letton, of Fairbury, and John S. Stull, of Auburn, were elected judges of the district, and each was reëlected in 1899. At the election of 1903 Albert H. Babcock, of Beatrice, and W. H. Kellegar, of Auburn, were elected district judges of the First judicial district. Before his term of office expired Judge Babcock died, and John B. Raper, of Pawnee City, was appointed by Governor Mickey to fill out his unexpired term. At the fall election of 1907 Leander M. Pemberton and John B. Raper were elected, and both have by successive elections held this important office till the present moment.

In 1911 the legislature, by a reapportionment of the judicial districts, created district No. 18, consisting of Gage and Jefferson counties, and Judge Pemberton was assigned for service to this district. He is the present incumbent of the office.

Speaking generally, the judges of the district court of the several judicial districts to which Gage county has belonged have been lawyers of ability and of great worth of character. Some were called to even higher service than the district judicial bench. Judge Dundy was, in 1868, elevated to the bench of the Federal district court of Nebraska, and he occupied that position until his death, October 28, 1896. Judge Weaver passed from the district court bench to a seat in congress; Judge Gantt was elected a justice of the supreme court in 1867 and at the time of his demise, in 1878, was chief justice of that great court; Judge Letton, after nearly eight years' service on the district bench of the First judicial district, was, in November, 1903, appointed one of the supreme-court commissioners, and in 1905 he was elected a justice of the supreme court of the state, a position he has since held. He is a candidate for a second reëlection, with every prospect of success.

The intimate relationship which always exists between bench and bar in the public mind as well as in actual practice, gives pertinency to what will be said concerning the lawyers of Gage county.

The bar as a branch of the American system of jurisprudence was given standing by the first general assembly of the territory of Nebraska in an act approved March 9, 1855, entitled "An act regulating the admission of attorneys." It is very brief. The first section provides that "any person twenty-one years of age who can produce satisfactory evidence of a good moral character and pass an examination before either the judges of the district court or before the justices of the supreme court of this territory, shall be licensed to practice as an attorney at law and solicitor in chancery in all the courts in this territory." And, as a sort of afterthought, the second section of the act provides that "every citizen of this territory may attend to his own cases in all said courts."

At the third session of the legislative assembly, begun and held at Omaha January 15, 1857, a code of civil procedure was adopted for the territory, in which the law regarding attorneys and counselors at law was formulated very much as it now appears in the statutes of our state. Under these statutes there has been from almost the first an able, patriotic and trustworthy bar in Nebraska. No class of citizens has contributed as much toward the general welfare, the formulation and enactment of wise and wholesome laws, the enforcement of law and order and the maintenance of a high standard of moral character in the community. No other profession excels the lawyers in breadth of learning and ability. The Nebraska bar has always been an influential factor in the public affairs of our state and nation, and in every walk of life it has made a record in which all of its members may feel a just pride. Gage county and the city of Beatrice are monuments to the courage, daring and prevision of a few lawyers, who, with others, gathered into an association in 1857, on board the old Missouri River steamboat "Hannibal," and resolved to remain together and share their fortunes in the new territory of Nebraska. The senior of these in point of age

and experience was John Fitch Kinney, who had already acquired reputation as a politician, law-maker, judge and advocate in the states of Ohio and Iowa, and who was the first president of the Nebraska Association, which became in effect the Beatrice Townsite Company. The secretary of this organization was a young man from the state of New York, just entering upon the practice of the law,— scholarly, courtly John McConihe, whose brilliant career as a lawyer and soldier terminated on the bloody field of Cold Harbor, in 1864. Bennett Pike, a lawyer of rare ability and a man of most affable temperament and great worth of character, was the third of this group of lawyers, who, in a sister state, achieved undying fame in a learned bar in a great city. To these were joined Jefferson B. Weston, who became one of the most distinguished citizens of our state; Obediah B. Hewett, one of the early district attorneys of the old First judicial district of Nebraska and an honored citizen for many years of Nemaha county; and Phineas W. Hitchcock, whose abilities as a lawyer won him senatorial honors in the congress of the United States.

From the first settlement of Gage county, her citizens were largely dependent upon outside counsel for such legal services as were required in those primitive days. Bolinger & Rumbaugh, at Marysville, Kansas, were frequently employed by people of Gage county in handling their affairs. Judge Isham Reavis, the father of Congressman Frank Reavis, was one of the early settlers of Richardson county, and for many years was an active practitioner in the courts of our county, as was also Thomas B. Stevenson, of Nebraska City.

The first resident lawyer of Gage county was Jefferson B. Weston, who was admitted to the bar and authorized to practice his profession about 1862, after having pursued a course of legal studies in Chicago, Illinois. But Mr. Weston found life on the plains more attractive than life in a law office in a primitive community. For several years he engaged in freighting along the Oregon Trail, and in trade and other business ventures in the far west. It was not until about 1868, when the government land office was removed from Brownville to Beatrice and the country began to fill up rapidly with homeseekers, that Mr. Weston settled down to the practice of his profession. In 1873 he was elected, for a four-year term, to the office of state auditor of Nebraska, and was reëlected for two years. On his election he moved to Lincoln, where he resided until 1880, when he returned to Beatrice and engaged in the banking business. After his election to office he abandoned the practice of law altogether.

Perhaps the most picturesque character who ever assumed to practice law in Gage county was "C. B. R. E." This man had been Charles C. Coffinberry. He had reared a family, almost all grown, to each of whom he had given alliterative names. His eldest son was Cyrian C. Coffinberry; his second son, Crosby C. Coffinberry; his third son, Corwin C. Coffinberry; his fourth son was Carter C. Coffinberry; and his handsome and very amiable daughter was Caroline C. Coffinberry, who became the wife of E. B. Hendy, one of the early sheriffs of the county. The head of the family, while a member of the Wisconsin legislature, had procured a legislative enactment authorizing him thereafter to appear as plain Mr. C. C. Berry, but his entire family repudiated this shortening of the family cognomen, and insisted upon being known as Coffinberry. This was the first family to locate on the Big Blue river in Rockford township. In the spring of 1858 they settled on the claim which was afterward the homestead of James Hollingworth, and is now owned by his son Charles, a mile and a half south of Holmesville. The eccentricities of this family were a never failing source of gossip and entertainment to the early settlers. Nothing could better illustrate this characteristic than the performance of the head of the family as a member of the bar in Gage county. As far as the records show, he was the first lawyer admitted to practice in the county, yet his name is not given, only the initials "C.B.R.E." He acted as district attorney during the first term of district court held in the county, appearing for the people in six criminal cases,

where in every instance it is gravely written by Judge Dundy "The prosecuting attorney, C. B. R. E., enters a nolle prosequi, by leave of the court first had and obtained." He served repeatedly on election boards, drew money from the county treasury, executed and witnessed instruments by these initials, and even went so far as to sign the bond of County Treasurer Theodore M. Coulter for $10,000, and was sued upon this bond as C. B. R. E., the same having been approved by the county commissioners. For years, as far as the records show, this singular representative of the legal profession of our county marched across the pages of its history as "C. B. R. E."

Salmasius Bardwell Harrington was the first lawyer to open and maintain an office in Beatrice. He was born at Maysville, Chautauqua county, New York, April 16, 1829, the son of Asa and Mary (Swift) Harrington. His primary education was received in a New York Quaker school. His father died while he was a child and his mother became the wife of Parley Laflin. The family removed to Illinois in 1840, residing at first in Kane county and then in Rock Island county. He worked on a farm, attended public school, and finally entered Woodward College, at Cincinnati, Ohio Later he read law with an uncle, Eben Harrington, and at the age of nineteen, was admitted to the bar, at Rock Island, Illinois. He engaged briefly in the practice of the law there, but his family moved to Nebraska territory in 1857, and he came with them, and located in Johnson county, near Gage, a few miles northwest of Crab Orchard, where his half-brother, Louis Laflin, still resides and where his stepfather and mother died many years ago. In 1859 he followed the gold lure to Pike's Peak, and, returning, established a ranch on the Little Blue river, at the eastern end of the Nine Mile Ridge. Here he remained a year in the midst of the exciting scenes on the Oregon Trail; he then sold his ranch to a man named Ewing and returned to Illinois, to his wife and daughter. In 1861 he enlisted in the Fifty-eighth Illinois Infantry, and he was captured at the battle of Shiloh, while serving in General Prentice's Division. He was held a prisoner in Libby Prison, from which he was finally exchanged and rejoined his regiment, with which he served until Lee surrendered, at Appomattox. In the fall of 1865 he returned to Nebraska territory, made arrangements for his family to join him, and settled at once in the practice of the law at Beatrice. He was not formally admitted to the bar of the territory, however, until the regular fall term of the district court, October 7, 1867, due no doubt to the irregularity of the sessions of the court.

He was an active, aggressive lawyer, affable in manner and made and retained friends. From 1865 until his death, much of the legal business of the county was transacted by him. He died suddenly, in his office in Beatrice, August 25, 1870, and his remains lie in a secluded spot, now almost unidentified, in the Beatrice cemetery. He was a man of many excellent qualities and great worth of character. He died at the age of forty-one years, an age when most men approach the zenith of their powers and usefulness and at a time when the new state of Nebraska contained boundless possibilities for men of his profession.

In the spring of 1869, came Nathan K. Griggs, a young man who had but recently been admitted to the bar in the state of Indiana. In June of that year he opened an office in Beatrice, but as a school teacher he found a more lucrative and a more certain means of sustenance than the law afforded. He was but a beginner in his profession, without means, and litigation was not only scarce in Gage county but was as yet a luxury. He accepted the position of village school-master for the winter of 1867-1868, and thereby did more, perhaps, to ingratiate himself in public favor than by any other course he could possibly have taken. Although a man of many activities and engaging on other occupations, beginning with 1869, Mr. Griggs found ample employment for his abilities as a rising young lawyer.

In the spring of 1868 Hiram P. Webb came to Beatrice and was admitted to practice at the bar, and that spring Jefferson B. Weston

also opened a law office in the village of Beatrice. Numbers 8, Vol. I, of the *Blue Valley Record,* under date of August 26, 1868, carried under the heading "Professional" the card of Jefferson B. Weston, who announced himself as a notary public, conveyancer, real-estate agent and lawyer. Another card reads, "S. B. Harrington, Attorney and Counselor at Law and Real Estate Agent," and the third and last is "N. K. Griggs, Attorney and Counselor at law and Real Estate Agent." To these announcements, there was added, in the 22d number of the same volume of the *Courier,* under date of December 5, 1868, the following: "H. P. Webb, Attorney and Counselor at Law." At the same time there appeared in the *Record* the professional card of Stephenson & Hayward, of Nebraska City, who, among other things, announce that they "will practice in the courts of Gage county." Volume 1, No. 1 of the Beatrice *Clarion,* the successor of the *Blue Valley Record,* under date of May 8, 1869, contains the following professional card: "W. H. Ashby, Attorney and Counselor at Law and Real Estate Agent, Beatrice, Nebraska," and the public is informed also that Mr. Ashby will make collections and pay taxes for non-residents, while Stephenson & Hayward continue to announce that they "will practice in the courts of Gage county."

By 1869 this group of pioneer lawyers had found the government land office the chief source of professional business and income, and they became expert in the law and rules of practice regulating contests involving entries of public lands.

About 1870 the Gage county bar, as thus composed, was augmented by the advent of Smith C. B. Dean, and for several years he and the others named, constituted the bar of Gage county. They were all able and scholarly men, all achieved success in their profession, and all, with the exception of Ashby, have long since paid the great debt of nature.

A brief sketch of S. E. Harrington already appears in this chapter, and elsewhere in this volume will be found sketches of Weston and Webb, while in the biographical department, in the sketch of Samuel Rinaker, will be found an extended reference to the life of his partner, N. K. Griggs.

William H. Ashby was for many years a distinguished member of the Gage county bar. He was born in Livingston county, Missouri, in 1841 and grew to manhood in that state. Having obtained a good, usable education, he was on the point of entering upon a professional career when the great Civil war cut short all plans of a purely personal nature. He followed the fortunes of the southern Confederacy, at first attaching himself to the command of General Sterling Price, and took part in the battles of Pea Ridge, Iuka, and Corinth. He served in the armies of the south until the close of the war, was seriously wounded during the siege of Vicksburg, was promoted to a captaincy, and on the collapse of the Confederacy he was paroled, May 16, 1865. Within that year he came to Nebraska City and engaged in the practice of the law. In 1869 he moved to Beatrice and with J. M. Hoggshead purchased a half-interest in the *Blue Valley Record,* changed the name of the paper to the Beatrice *Clarion,* and, with Hoggshead, Nelson and Howard, conducted the paper as an independent publication until it was sold to Theodore Coleman, in the spring of 1870, and the name changed to the Beatrice *Express.* For a period of six eventful and busy years Captain Ashby here successfully practised his profession as a lawyer. In June, 1875, he was appointed, by President Grant, a member of the Sioux Indian Commission and spent that summer and fall amongst the Indians of South Dakota. The commission having negotiated with the Sioux a treaty of purchase for the Black Hills region, Captain Ashby was dispatched to Washington as the bearer of its report. In June, 1877, he was sent by our government as its special representative to Panama, the West Indies, and South America, to investigate and report upon certain abuses in the importation of sugar. He was recalled from this service in 1878, and, returning to Beatrice, he resumed the practice of the law. In 1881 he became interested in the rising city of Wymore. With Samuel Wymore he purchased a tract of land adjoining the original

townsite and laid it out as an addition to the city. Having sold his Wymore property at good figures he, in 1886, returned to Beatrice and again resumed the practice of his profession.

Captain Ashby was thrice married, first to Miss Coila B. Lambkin, of Mississippi, in 1865; second, to Miss Lilla Shaw, July 4, 1879, from both of whom he was divorced. His third marriage proved a happy and congenial one, the issue of which was two sons and a daughter. About 1912 he removed to the state of California, and he is now living in the city of Berkeley, under the shadow of the great State University of California. His two sons are in the service of the United States in the present great world war. Captain Ashby is a man of commanding presence, a good friend, a loyal citizen, and a lawyer of more than ordinary ability.

Smith C. B. Dean was by birth, education and training, a Canadian. Before coming to Nebraska he had already acquired reputation and standing as a lawyer in the courts of Canada. His health failing there, he came to the new territory of Nebraska in the vain hope of eradicating from his system the germs of pulmonary consumption. He was a man of fine presence, possessed an excellent education and was endowed with abilities of a very high order. He was a lawyer of great learning and industry, and the pleadings and other legal documents drawn by him were models of brevity and clearness. He was about forty years of age, and on his arrival in Beatrice he formed a co-partnership in the practice of the law with Jefferson B. Weston, their office being on the ground floor, beneath the United States land office, in the Saunders store building, now No. 309 Court street. Mr. Dean took a deep interest in the general welfare of the community, was very public-spirited, and lent his assistance to the upbuilding of Beatrice and Gage county at a time when such services as he willingly rendered were of the greatest value. He was the first mayor of the city of Beatrice, in 1873, and was a potent factor in shaping its destiny. He acquired great influence in the community, and at the time of his demise his voice carried further than any other in public affairs. He died in Beatrice on the first day of May, 1877.

About 1872 the bar of Gage county received several notable accessions. In April of that year E. Sanborn Chadwick and Alfred Hazlett were both admitted to practice, and in 1873 Leonard W. Colby, Louis B. Sale, and William H. Somers were licensed in the practice of the law and identified themselves with the Gage county bar.

Mr. Chadwick was the first police judge of the city of Beatrice. He remained here but a short time, made but small impression on the community, and left here many years ago, locating in Bloomington, Nebraska, where he was for several years county judge of his county. He died there many years ago.

Mr. Sale had been a classmate of Leonard W. Colby in the University of Wisconsin and they began professional life together here as partners. He remained here but a short time, returning to Wisconsin, where he achieved professional success and where political honors came to him, amongst others, a seat in congress, to which he was repeatedly elected. While still a comparatively young man, he lost his life while bathing on a Wisconsin lake. Seeing his two sons struggling in the water for their lives, he rushed to their rescue and all were drowned.

William H. Somers came to Gage county in 1872 and was for many years a leading citizen of Beatrice, but he achieved no reputation as a lawyer, other things diverting his attention and energies. He served one term in the legislature, as a float representative from Gage and other counties. In 1881 he was appointed receiver of the United States government land office at Beatrice. At the close of his term of office, in 1886, he removed with his family to California and opened a large fruit ranch in El Cajon valley, seventeen miles up the coast from San Diego. Several years ago he disposed of this property and moved to San Diego, where he was killed, about 1908, in a street-car accident.

In 1874 Oliver M. Enlow was admitted to the bar of Gage county and he remained in

the practice until his death, in 1916. He did not aspire to great eminence in the legal profession but chose rather, whenever possible, to combine it with some clerical or other occupation. He was for some time clerk of the district court, during the incumbency of Judge Gantt. He was county judge of Gage county for four years, and in the latter part of his life, for a number of years, he was deputy assessor; following the general election of 1911, on the death of A. K. Smith, who had been elected county assessor, Mr. Enlow was appointed to that office, and he was the last of the county assessors. He was a warm-hearted, generous man, much esteemed by all who knew him.

William M. Forbes was born February 28, 1847, near Greensburg, Indiana. He came to Beatrice in July, 1876, and settled in the practice of the law. He was a graduate of the law department of the Iowa State University, class of 1874, and had been a school teacher in Burlington, Iowa. He served, by appointment, as county judge of Gage county for the unexpired term of J. M. Carter, in 1878, and in 1879 he formed a law partnership with Judge Leander M. Pemberton. After several years' successful practice at the bar of Gage county Mr. Forbes removed to Topeka, where he has been a prominent member of the bar of that city. He was possessed of considerable means for a western lawyer and on his arrival in Beatrice he erected an elegant home for those early days, on the corner of Fifth and Lincoln streets, opposite the Episcopal church. He and his wife were active members of the Methodist church and were important factors in the social life of the city in that early day.

Charles O. Bates was a briliant young man who entered the law office of Colby & Hazlett in 1875; he was admitted to the bar about 1878, and at the same time to an interest in the business of his preceptors. His success as a lawyer and politician was immediate. In 1890 he was elected county attorney of Gage county, but he resigned before the expiration of his term of office and, leaving Beatrice, finally settled, about 1891, in Tacoma, Washington, where he now resides and is a prominent member of the bar.

Albert Hardy came to Beatrice in February, 1878, from the state of New York, where he had been for many years engaged in the practice of his profession, at Sandy creek, Oswego county. He was about forty years of age and in his prime. But for some eccentricities of character, he might easily have been the head of the Gage county bar and a successful practitioner of the law. He sometimes tried cases well and often won where he should have failed, and, everything considered, he was fairly successful as a lawyer. With the exception of a year or two in Denver, Mr. Hardy followed his calling in Beatrice from the time of his arrival here until about 1906. He then went to Pierre, South Dakota, to live, and a few years ago he passed away, aged about eighty years.

Andrew J. Hale was for several years a prominent member of the Gage county bar. He was born in Chittenden county, near Burlington, Vermont, March 8, 1842. He received a general education in the common schools of his native state and in Fairfax Institute, at Burlington, where he spent three years as a student. About 1865 he graduated from the law department of Union College (now University), at Albany, New York, and in 1867 he located in Nebraska City in the practice of his profession; in 1876 he came to Beatrice and opened a law office. In the early '80s he was in partnership with Albert Hardy. In 1886, having inherited a considerable fortune, he purchased, amongst other real estate, a half-section of land a few miles southwest of Beatrice, abandoned the practice of the law and engaged in farming and stock-raising. This venture proving a failure and having lost most of his property, about 1885, he left the county and returned to Nebraska City, where he died a few years ago.

Thomas Farrar Burke, a young lawyer from New England settled at Blue Springs in 1879. Mr. Burke was the possessor of a good education, was a man of great energy, and rapidly acquired a practice at the

bar of Gage county. About 1882 Frank N. Prout came to the county, first to Beatrice and later to Blue Springs, where he formed a law partnership with Mr. Burke. Both were good lawyers, both ambitious and both affable gentlemen. They were prominent at our bar for a number of years and as lawyers performed a real service to the people of the state of Nebraska in the case of the State on the Relation of Mattoon versus The Republican Valley Railroad Company, reported in Volume 17 of the *Nebraska Supreme Court Reports*, at page 647. This was an action in mandamus, brought in the supreme court of Nebraska, to compel the railroad company to build within the corporate limits of Blue Springs a depot and put in the necessary sidetracks and switches for a station, and to stop its trains there for the proper transaction of business. The Crete branch of the railroad line had been extended to Wymore through Blue Springs, but the company refused to afford railroad facilities to Blue Springs, while at the same time affording its rival every possible support. The writ of mandamus was allowed against the defendant and it was compelled to furnish the city of Blue Springs with service, thereby establishing the rule that no common carrier could unjustly discriminate against a municipal corporation in Nebraska.

About twenty years ago Mr. Burke removed from Nebraska to Wyoming and located at Cheyenne, where he has attained both professional success and distinguished honors as a lawyer, having served the state of Wyoming for several years as its attorney general, and for many years has served as a member of the board of regents for the Wyoming State University.

Mr. Prout removed to Beatrice after the dissolution of the copartnership and was for a number of years city attorney; in 1898 he was elected to the state senate, from Gage county. In 1900 he was elected attorney general of the state of Nebraska and, by a reëlection, he served the people in the important office four years, beginning January 1, 1901. Since retiring from office he has practised law in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and in Fairbury and Humboldt, Nebraska, and has finally located permanently in Falls City, in the practice of his profession.

Nathan T. Gadd came to Gage county about 1880, and located in the practice of the law at Liberty. Mr. Gadd was an active and very useful man in his community. For several years he was an important factor not only in Liberty but in the county of Gage, and from a mere youthful beginner in the law he grew into an important and lucrative practice. When the great northwest was being rapidly settled and the Burlington Railroad was pushing a line across northern Nebraska and through to the Puget Sound country, he went to Broken Bow, in Custer county, Nebraska, where he became active in the practice of his profession. Mr. Gadd is an impulsive, warm-hearted, courtly gentleman, much esteemed by his professional brethren and given to many kindly, generous acts.

William H. Richards was admitted to the bar of Gage county about 1895. He was a man of limited education but proved to be a very good business lawyer. He is a member of a pioneer family in Pawnee county, his parents having located at the head of Turkey creek, in that county, in 1859. They were people of sterling worth of character and Mr. Richards inherited from them many of the family characteristics. From the time of his admission to the bar until he left Gage county he practised his profession at Liberty, while at the same time engaging in other pursuits. About 1908 he left the county and located at Humboldt, in the practice of the law, and later he removed to Wichita, Kansas.

W. V. A. Dodds was admitted to the Gage county bar in 1885; his practice however was very limited, as he gave his attention largely to outside matters. For several years he conducted a large farm in Gage county and later he went to Montana, where he is now located in business.

George M. Johnston came to Beatrice about 1890. He erected a paper mill near the city, placed a dam across the Big Blue river and proceeded to build up a business as a paper manufacturer. But a flood, in 1902, destroyed the water power, and the enterprise was aban-

doned. Mr. Johnston then engaged in the practice of the law, having been previously admitted to the bar in the state of Illinois. He was successful in his professional work and was an active member of the bar of Gage county for several years. Later he went to Missouri, where he engaged in various enterprises, and he died about 1912.

Menzo Terry, a farmer near Pickrell, who had been previously admitted to the bar, was elected county attorney, on the Democratic ticket, in 1905 and served one term in that office, during which time and for a year or two afterward he was in partnership with Fred O. McGirr. In 1910 he left this state and he is now located on a fruit farm in southern California.

Robert S. Bibb came from the Peoria, Illinois, bar to the Gage county bar in 1884. Mr. Bibb had been a member of the Illinois legislature and a practicing attorney at Peoria. Shortly after his arrival here he formed a copartnership with W. V. A. Dodds, in the practice of the law, and about 1890 he entered the firm of Griggs & Rinaker, which was thereafter known as Griggs, Rinaker & Bibb. On the removal of Mr. Griggs to Lincoln, in 1893, the firm name was changed to Rinaker & Bibb. This firm did a large and very successful legal business until Mr. Bibb's death, which occurred May 17, 1907. Mr. Bibb was the first county attorney of Gage county, having been elected to that office in 1885. He was very prominent in the business, professional and social life of Beatrice during his entire residence here. He was an unusually good lawyer, one of the ablest trial lawyers the bar of Gage county has ever produced. Personally he was genial, kindly and considerate. He was popular with the court and with his professional associates. His final resting place is in Evergreen Home cemetery, and the spot is marked by a rugged monument which, in a sense, is indicative of his character.

George Arthur Murphy came to Beatrice from Indiana about the year 1886, and engaged at once in the practice of his profession. His success was immediate, and while he lived here he had a large and paying clientage. In 1891 he was elected county attorney of Gage county, and he was reëlected in 1893. In 1898 he was elected state senator from Gage county. In 1901 Mr. Murphy removed to the state of Oklahoma and located at Muscogee, where he has since resided. He has been successful in his profession and has acquired wealth.

W. C. LeHané came to Gage county about the year 1890 and for a while was a law partner of George Arthur Murphy. In 1896 he was appointed receiver of the Beatrice Savings Bank, and his duties as receiver absorbed his time to such an extent that he practically abandoned the practice of the law. He so managed the affairs of the bank as to pay ninety cents on the dollar of its indebtedness. After the adjustment of the receivership, Mr. LeHane went to Idaho, where for a time he engaged in the practice of his profession at Boise City. Later he removed to California, and he is now living near San Francisco, in the Sacramento valley.

Charles E. Bush is a son of Judge James E. Bush. He is a graduate of the Beatrice high school, studied law in his father's office and was admitted to the bar of Gage county about the year 1891. He later removed to Oklahoma and for several years he has been located in the successful practice of the law at Tulsa, that state.

Jean Cobbey, a son of Judge J. E. Cobbey, was born in Gage county, graduated from the Beatrice high school, attended the State University of Nebraska and took a course in the law and was admitted to the bar. He began the practice of his profession in Beatrice in 1911 and in 1912 was elected county attorney of Gage county. He was defeated for reëlection in 1914 and shortly thereafter removed to Nebraska City. Later he sought service in the army on the Mexican border, and when our government entered the world war, in April, 1917, he was serving as chaplain of his regiment, but he recently resigned and is now with the colors in France.

Philip E. Winter was one of the early lawyers of Wymore. For a number of years he was successfully engaged in the practice of his

profession there with E. N. Kauffman, his brother-in-law. He later removed to Omaha, where for several years he was an active member of the bar. He then located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and is now a prominent member of the bar at that place.

Thomas D. Cobbey located in Beatrice in the practice of his profession in 1882. Shortly thereafter he moved to Wymore and he was actively engaged in the practice of the law there for a number of years, successfully transacting a large volume of legal business. Several years ago he moved to Denver, Colorado, and he is now one of the successful and wealthy lawyers of that city.

James A. Smith came from Iowa City to Beatrice in 1879. He was born at Geneva, Illinois, November 22, 1844. On the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted in the First Missouri Cavalry, at St. Louis, in September, 1861. He was wounded in the battle of Sugar Creek, Arkansas, February 19, 1862, lost his right arm at the shoulder and a finger of his left hand, and was discharged September 22, 1862. He read law in the office of Governor Kirkwood of Iowa and married Calista Saunders, of Iowa City, November 23, 1868. Shortly after coming to Beatrice he was elected police judge of the city, an office which he held for several years. He died in Beatrice many years ago and his remains are buried in Evergreen Home cemetery.

John N. Richards was born in Adams county, Ohio, February 22, 1850. In 1856 he went to LaSalle county, Illinois, and in that state as a youth he engaged in farming. Having obtained a common-school education, he spent some time in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois. He came to Nebraska in 1874 and located at Falls City, where he was principal of the city schools. He removed to Beatrice in 1877 and entered upon the practice of the law, in which he was fairly successful. He left Beatrice several years ago, and is now located at Colorado City, Colorado.

Albert H. Babcock was born at Bath, Steuben county, New York, in 1846, and when quite young was taken by his parents to Michigan, where he lived until he came to Nebraska. He learned the trade of a blacksmith and was a successful artisan. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Eighteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and he was afterward promoted to the captaincy of Company E of that regiment. He continued in the service until July, 1865, having been in all the battles and marches of his command. He graduated from the law department of the Michigan University with the class of 1868, and located at Pawnee City, Nebraska, in the practice of the law, in October, 1869. There he achieved a great measure of success in his profession. In February, 1880, he moved to Beatrice and opened a law office, and for many years he was prominent in the litigation of Gage county. He was a member of the Nebraska legislature in 1873-1874, and he served both Pawnee City and Beatrice as city attorney. In 1891 he was elected district judge of the First judicial district, and served four years; he was again elected in 1903, and he served until his death, which occurred in 1907. His remains lie in Evergreen Home cemetery. As a lawyer Judge Babcock was an able counselor, careful and systematic in all he did; as a judge he upheld the best traditions of the bench, and as a man he led a blameless life in the sight of God and of all men.

James E. Bush was born in Rockville, Indiana, June 1, 1845, living there and in Kentucky until he was three years old. While he was still an infant his father died, in the Mexican war; his mother dying shortly afterward, he began life as an orphan. His elder brothers and sisters held the family together, moved from Kentucky to Peoria, Illinois, where they lived five years, and thence to Wyoming, Stark county, Illinois, in the spring of 1853. On August 12, 1862, he enlisted in the service of the United States, in the One Hundred and Twelfth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he served until the close of the war. He was mustered out of the service in Chicago, in July, 1865, and returned to Wyoming, Illinois. He began the study of law in 1872, in the office of Miles A. Fuller, of Toulon, Illinois, and, having passed a satis-

factory examination in the supreme court of that state, he was admitted to the bar June 5, 1875. He began the practice of his profession at Bradford, Stark county, Illinois. On May 6, 1880, he came to Beatrice and associated himself with John N. Richards. When this partnership was dissolved, in 1884, he formed a partnership with Leander M. Pemberton. In 1891, with Judge Babcock, he was elected to the district bench in the old First judicial district, and he served four years. He was defeated for reëlection in 1895, and died in Beatrice on the 14th day of April, 1900. His remains lie in Beatrice cemetery and those of his beloved wife were, in September, 1917, laid by his side. Their resting place is marked by a tasteful monument.

Joseph Elliott Cobbey was born in the state of Missouri, in 1853, and when a child was taken by his parents to Benton county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood. He obtained a good education in the common schools of Iowa and at the State Agricultural College, situated in the little city of Ames. While still a very young man he entered the college of law in the University of Iowa, from which institution he graduated with honor in 1877, and he came almost immediately to Beatrice. He was employed for a while in the county treasurer's office, by his uncle, Hiram P. Webb, also in the bank of Hiram P. Webb & Company. In 1878 he began the active practice of his profession and he continued therein until his death, on the 22d day of August, 1911. He soon achieved a commanding position at the bar of his county and state, and for thirty-four years this quiet, unassuming, pioneer lawyer carried on an extended and diversified practice in the courts of this state and the federal courts.

He was prominent in city and county affairs and in the Republican party, to which he belonged. In 1879 he was elected to the office of county judge, and served two years. He was defeated for renomination by his party, and again engaged in the active practice of the law. During his professional career he served the city of Beatrice one term of two years as city attorney and was four years a member of the common council of this city. Wherever placed and whatever he did, his life and labors were characterized by the utmost fidelity of purpose and he became one of the most useful and respected citizens of our county.

In 1889 Judge Cobbey turned in a measure from the practical side of his profession and sought wealth and honor by digging about the roots and strengthening the foundations of the law itself. In 1890 he published a textbook on the "Law of Replevin"; he revised it in 1893, and it is everywhere in this country regarded by the courts and the legal profession as standard authority upon that subject. Later appeared his textbook on the "Law of Chattel Mortgages," in two large volumes, equal, at least, in authority to any other American textbook on that subject. In 1901 Judge Cobbey turned his attention to the business of statute-making, and that year appeared "Cobbey's Annotated Code of Nebraska." These well known contributions to the law of the land are alone sufficient to constitute an enduring monument to his memory.

In the year 1891 Judge Cobbey was employed by the legislature of Nebraska to compile and publish the statutes of the state, and that body appropriated the sum of twelve thousand dollars to assist him in the work. This is known as the "Consolidated Statutes of Nebraska for 1891." It was followed by the "Consolidated Statutes of 1893." Both editions were annotated, and both appeared under legislative sanction as the authorized statutes of the state. These were followed by similar statutes for the years 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911. The last work came from the press only a few days prior to his death. "Cobbey's Statutes for 1911" was monumental in character. It is as nearly perfect, probably, as any work of that kind could be. In addition to his indefatigable labors as annotator and publisher of the Nebraska statutes, Judge Cobbey was employed by the legislature of New Mexico, a couple of years prior to his death, to codify the laws of that new state, and he spent nearly a year in that important, and to him agreeable, task, in the old city of Santa Fe. From this brief sketch of his life, it is evident that no other Nebraska lawyer has

succeeded so completely in embedding his name in the legal history and legal literature of his state and nation.

The present bar of Gage county is composed of Wilber S. Bourne; Charles L. Brewster, now serving his country as a captain in France, in the great world war; Leonard W. Colby; Frank E. Crawford, now also a captain serving his country in France; Lloyd Crocker; Hugh J. Dobbs; John W. Delehant, now in training in an officers' camp, awaiting the call for his services under his country's flag; Alfred Hazlett; Fulton Jack; Edward N. Kauffman; Albertus H. Kidd; Samuel D. Killen; Ernest O. Kretsinger and his son, Ernest Kretsinger; Frederick W. Messmore; Adam McMullen; Leander M. Pemberton; Samuel Rinaker; Robert W. Sabin; Harry E. Sackett; Franklin D. Sheldon; Walter A. Vasey; and Herbert D. Walden. Biographical sketches appear in this volume of most of the lawyers here named.

In point of ability, integrity, learning and worth of character the bar of Gage county has always compared most favorably with that of other counties of the state. From its ranks have come judges, legislators, authors, soldiers, diplomats. Not greedy of wealth and avaricious only of honor and the opportunity of service, the lawyers of our county have steadily maintained the best traditions of this noble and learned profession.

CHAPTER XXXI

PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE THEIR PART IN MAKING GAGE COUNTY

DANIEL W. COOK. — Daniel Wolford Cook lives now only in the memory of those who knew and loved him. Though passed to that bourne from which no traveler has ever yet returned, his abilities and worth of character were such as to entitle him to a place in any history of Gage county or the state of Nebraska. During a long residence in the city of Beatrice he was a potent factor in its development and in its social and business activities, and at the moment of his demise he was one of its best known and most highly respected citizens. He responded to the summons of the death angel while yet in love with life — ere he had reached the zenith of his powers and usefulness and at a period of his career when the public was turning toward him more kindly and appreciatively than ever before; when his own nature was responding more fully than ever to the social demands of the community upon him as one of its leading citizens. After an illness of more than a year, the serious nature of which he understood, and having calmly and bravely awaited the end, on Saturday, the 4th day of March, 1916, at his home on North Seventh Street, Beatrice, he passed to that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. All that was mortal of this good and true man now rests in his tomb in Evergreen Home cemetery, near the city he loved and where so many of his happiest years were spent.

Mr. Cook was born on the 27th day of March, 1860, in the little city of Hillsdale, state of Michigan, and at the time of his death he lacked but a few days of being fifty-six years of age, an age when most men are still in their prime. He was the son of John P. Cook and Martha Wolford, and was one of ten children born to that husband and wife, six sons and four daughters. They were John P. Cook, Lewis Cass Cook, Chauncey F., William Wilson, Catherine, Anna, Daniel Wolford, Franklin M., Caroline and Belle Cook, of whom four are still living. They are Chauncey F. and Franklin M. Cook, of Hillsdale, William Wilson Cook, of New York city, and the youngest sister, Mrs. Belle Funkhouser, of Chicago, Illinois. In addition to this family, there were five children of the half blood, born to his father John P. Cook and Betsy Wolford. Their names were Amanda, Julia, Charles H., Martha A., and Mary Cook, and none of them is now living.

Mr. Cook obtained an elementary education in the public schools of his native city and at an early age entered the well known Baptist College at Hillsdale. Later he was a student for some time in the University of Michigan, located in the city of Ann Arbor. Without graduating at either of these institutions, he obtained a good usable education and never found himself at a disadvantage when brought into contact with people of learning and refinement.

While attending Hillsdale College Mr. Cook became acquainted with Miss Elizabeth Case, who also was a student at that institution, and in the delightful intimacy of college life a friendship was formed between them which soon ripened into romantic love, the purest of all the passions of the heart, and on the 22d day of December, 1883, they were united in marriage. The conjugal felicity of this union was never doubted by those with whom this husband and wife came in contact. It was broken only by the hand of death. Four children came to bless this union and cement the marital bond, of whom three survive. They are Daniel Wolford Cook, cashier of the Beatrice National Bank; Mary E. Ramsey, the wife of Mr. William C. Ramsey, a promising young lawyer of Omaha; and John Bradford Cook, but recently graduated from

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D. W. Cook

the University of Nebraska and now engaged in the banking business in the thriving western town of Scotts Bluffs, Nebraska. William W. Cook, the second and much loved son, at the age of eighteen years, was drowned while bathing in the Big Blue river, on the 27th day of August, 1905.

For many years prior to his death, Mr. and Mrs. Cook owned and occupied a beautiful home at the corner of Seventh and Summit Streets, Beatrice, erected by them in 1884. Here thirty-two years of their married life were spent together; here their children were born; and from its portals a well beloved son and husband were borne to the grave and an only and much loved daughter departed a bride. Cold indeed must be the heart that can withhold its sympathy from her to whom this spot is hallowed by so many sacred memories.

No one was less inclined to speak of, himself or his family than Daniel Wolford Cook. His most intimate friends rarely heard him mention his ancestry or speak of his family beyond his immediate home circle. His reticence in this respect was the more remarkable since there is much in his family genealogy of which he was, no doubt, justly proud. His reticence on this subject was probably due to a natural reserve of character which ran through his entire life, and to a fine sensitiveness concerning his personal matters.

Mr. Cook's parents were both born and reared in the town of Cato, Cayuga county, New York. His father was born in 1812, amidst the stirring scenes of our second war with England. Early in life he married Betsy Wolford, and at the age of twenty he migrated to the new Territory of Michigan, locating first at Detroit. In 1833, about four years prior to the time Michigan was admitted into the union of sovereign states, he removed to Hillsdale county and settled in the village of Hillsdale, where he resided until his death, in 1884, at the age of seventy-two years. His first wife having died about the year 1850, leaving him with a family of five young children, he in 1854, married Martha A. Wolford, her younger sister. In his early years he was a wonderfully active and a very useful man. Shortly after his arrival in Michigan, he formed the acquaintance of General Lewis Cass, and for many years he was an intimate friend of that distinguished soldier, statesman and diplomat. He was intimately connected, almost from the first, with the social, intellectual, political, and business interests of his section of country. He was the first postmaster at Hillsdale, serving his community in that capacity for a number of years; he was one of the trustees of the state hospital at Kalamazoo, and for a long time a trustee of Hillsdale College, president of the town board of Hillsdale, and discharged the duties of other local officers. He was a delegate to two constitutional conventions of his state, twice a member of the house of representatives, and thrice a member of the state senate of Michigan. He was an exceptionally good business man and by fortunate investments in Michigan timbered lands he had amassed a fortune, which at his death amounted to nearly half a million dollars.

On his father's side, Daniel Wolford Cook was descended in a direct line from William Bradford, who came over with the "Pilgrim Fathers" in the Mayflower, in 1620, and who for thirty years was governor of Plymouth Colony. A certain Captain David Cook became the husband of Mary Bradford in the early part of the eighteenth century, who in a direct line was the great-great-granddaughter of the Puritan governor. This Captain Cook fought with distinction in the war of the Revolution, from its beginning, in 1776, to its close, in 1783. From him was descended John P. Cook, the father of Daniel Wolford Cook. On his mother's side Mr. Cook was descended from Holland and French stock, his maternal grandfather being a Hollander and his maternal grandmother, a La Rue, French. Martha A. Cook, the mother of Daniel Wolford Cook, reached the bounds of this mortal life in 1909, the object of the solicitude and affection of a host of relatives and friends. Now all that is mortal of these Michigan pioneers lies in the Hillsdale cemetery, where after having answered the call

of the angel of death, they await the trump of the angel of the resurrection.

Shortly after leaving the University of Michigan, in 1879, Mr. Cook, at the age of nineteen years, engaged in the wholesale and retail lumber trade in Michigan City, Indiana, at the foot of Lake Michigan. His business was operated in connection with his father's lumber manufacturing plant at White Lake, Michigan, and in carrying it on, he was associated with his cousin, W. C. Wilson, now president of the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Lincoln, Nebraska. After several years' successful business, he sold his interest in the lumber trade at Michigan City to his partner, and in 1884 he came to Nebraska to seek fortune, happiness, and success in this new state.

Having, through the mediation of his brother-in-law, the late Nathan S. Harwood, and the late Jefferson B. Weston, purchased a controlling interest in the Gage County Bank, Mr. Cook moved his family to Beatrice in February, 1884. With Harwood, Weston, and others, he reorganized the bank into a national bank, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, to be thenceforth known as the Beatrice National Bank, a title still worn by this well known banking institution. The first board of directors of the bank were Harwood, Weston, Cook, Cyrus Alden, Nathan Blakely, Silas P. Wheeler, and William Lamb, of which Mr. Weston was president and Mr. Cook vice-president. All these gentlemen, well known in the early days, have passed away, Mr. Cook being the last survivor of this board of directors. Mr. Weston served as president of the board until his death, in September, 1905, and thereafter until his demise Mr. Cook was president of the board.

Beginning at a time when Gage county was just emerging from its pioneer days, when things were new and fresh within its boundaries, when Beatrice had but recently been advanced from a mere western village to a city under the law of less than five thousand population, the steady growth of the Beatrice National Bank under Mr. Cook's management is, in a sense, typical of the growth of both the city and county. The first statement by the board of directors after he took control of the affairs of the bank, under date of September 30, 1884, showed a total volume of business amounting to the sum of $124,755.37, of which $61,235.86 were deposits. The statement of the bank issued March 7, 1916, a few days after Mr. Cook's death, showed a volume of business amounting to the sum of $1,255,020.24, of which sum $988,917.49 were deposits. Assuming the management of this bank at a time when he was not yet twenty-four years of age, the unusual abilities possessed by Mr. Cook as a business man and banker are demonstrated by the steady and rapid growth of this splendid banking enterprise. While he held its destiny in his hands not a penny of its depositors' money was lost or even jeopardized by unwise banking methods.

In the everyday affairs of the community Mr. Cook acted the part of a wise and helpful banker, readily assisting the deserving in every safe business enterprise when money was needed. He had the faculty of divining character in his customers and he was never known to err seriously in his judgment of men. He was particularly generous and helpful both in monetary affairs and in advice to young men just entering a business career and he was apt to place greater reliance upon individual honesty, when coupled with ability and energy, than upon any sort of collateral. His liberal assistance to deserving customers of his bank, his habit of taking a kind and helpful interest in their affairs and his clear, comprehensive, deliberate way of looking at things, made him one of the most all-round useful citizens of his community.

He was a man of teeming activities. In addition to the personal management of his bank he devoted considerable time to farming and the breeding and sale of live stock, and he was never happier than when going over his farm, near the village of Ellis, with some sympathetic friend. In 1891 he was induced to invest a considerable sum of money in the capital stock of the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Lincoln, Nebraska. Associated with him in this enterprise were Nathan S. Harwood, John M. Thurston,

Thomas Kimball (then vice-president of the Union Pacific Railway Company), William R. Kelly, J. E. Houtz, Charles Boggs (of Lincoln), Michael Wolbach (of Beatrice), his brother, Franklin M. Cook, and his cousin, W. C. Wilson. At the time Mr. Cook became interested in this company its capital stock was $100,000, its assets $127,000. He afterward acquired the stock of his brother in this institution, and at the time of his death he was its second largest stockholder, its president, W. C. Wilson, being the largest. This company has prospered amazingly. Its capital stock still remains at $100,000, but its business has increased by leaps and bounds, until at the present moment its assets amount to $13,000,000. During his entire connection with this company Mr. Cook occupied the position of vice-president, and he was also an influential member of the finance committee. In 1911, the company erected a substantial five-story, modern building at the corner of Fourteenth and M streets, Lincoln, at a cost of $300,000, where its offices are now located.

Though never seeking any sort of lucrative office for himself, Mr. Cook always manifested a deep and an intelligent interest in public affairs. He was active in all matters relating to the welfare of his city, and in the political movements of his county and state. For many years he affiliated with the Democratic party and he was twice a delegate to the national convention of that great party. Growing dissatisfied with its attitude on the question of the coinage of silver by the federal government, as set forth in its platform of 1896, he openly withdrew from it and became an active and useful member of the Republican party. This affiliation he maintained with unswerving loyalty to the last. He was eminent in its counsels and influential in shaping its policies both at home and abroad.

From this resumé it is clear that Mr. Cook's mind was turned almost wholly to the practical side of life. He was a man of affairs, keen, active, decisive. He was broad in conception, sound in judgment, and endowed with masterful powers in organizing and conducting business affairs. For thirty years he devoted his time, energy, and splendid abilities largely to laying the foundation for his own fortune and the fortunes of his business associates. Success in his several undertakings being finally assured, he extended his interest, energies, and activities to the upbuilding of the entire community. For several years prior to his demise he served faithfully and efficiently as a member of the board of public parks for the city of Beatrice. He also took a deep and friendly interest in the Young Men's Christian Association of Beatrice, and it was largely through his efforts, enterprise, enthusiasm, and love of clean, wholesome sports that the Beatrice school district now owns what is probably the finest athletic park in the west. He passed away at the moment of his greatest usefulness, when he could have been least spared and at a time when he was rapidly winning the public appreciation which always attends unselfish efforts of a high order for the upbuilding of a community.

Mr. Cook, though not directly affiliated with any religious organization at the time of his death, was never indifferent to the claims of religion or the value of Christian character. He believed in Almighty God and in an overruling providence in the affairs of men. Himself candid and direct, he despised indirection and hypocracy in others. He was an entertaining conversationalist and was well informed as respects the leading events of our country's history, the lives and characters of the public men of our day as well as the past. He delighted in clean, pointed anecdotes, and a visit with him in his private office was always a thing to be remembered. Though sometimes abrupt in manner and outspoken, at bottom he was one of the kindest and most generous of men. Though never very demonstrative, he was capable of great depth of feeling. He rarely spoke of the death of his son William without emotion and never recovered from this wound to his affections. He loved the society of men and men were fond of him. He prized his friends as few men ever did, and once his friendship was given it was never lightly withdrawn. It is hard to reflect that the grave — the silent, remorseless grave — has closed forever over the assemblage of manly qualities embodied in Daniel Wolford Cook.

THOMAS YULE. — It was within the province of the late Thomas Yule, who served one term as mayor of Beatrice, one term as city treasurer and three terms as a member of the county board of supervisors, to have wielded a large and beneficent influence in the civic, industrial, and business affairs of Gage county, and he was exponent of that high type of manhood which ever stands indicative of usefulness and subjective honor. He impressed his strong individuality deeply upon the history of Gage county, within whose gracious borders he maintained his home for nearly thirty years prior to his death, and in a publication of the functions assigned to the one at hand it is eminently consonant that a tribute be paid to his memory and recognition be accorded to him as having been one of the essentially representative men of this favored county. His character was the positive expression of a noble and loyal nature and his genial and kindly personality gained and retained to him the high regard of all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Yule was born in Northumberland county, England, on the 20th of October, 1832, and his death occurred at his home in Beatrice, Nebraska, on the 21st of June, 1907. He was a son of George and Elizabeth (Huggett) Yule, his father having been a civil engineer by profession and having for some time held a responsible position with the London & Northeastern Railway Company. Thomas Yule received excellent educational advantages in his native land and there continued to reside until 1853, when, accompanied by his parents and his young wife, he came to the United States, the family home being established in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where the father and son became pioneer exponents of agricultural industry. The honored father died in 1871, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife survived him by six years, she having been seventy-three years of age at the time of her demise. Four of their six children attained to maturity and became well established in life before the death of the parents.

On the 15th of March, 1853, was solemnized the marriage of Thomas Yule to Miss Mary Todd, who likewise was born in Northumberlandshire, a daughter of John and Mary Todd. The voyage to America on a sailing vessel of the type common to that day virtually constituted the bridal tour of the young couple, and after having been for some time associated with his father in farm enterprise in Columbia county, Wisconsin, Thomas Yule removed with his wife to the village of Lodi, that county, where he was engaged in contracting and building at the time of the inception of the Civil war. His loyalty to the land of his adoption soon found significant exposition, for on the 15th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in the Twenty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he entered service in the Army of the West, under General A. J. Smith, and in the Fourteenth Army Corps, commanded by General Sherman. Relative to the gallant military career of Mr. Yule the following interesting record has been given: "Mr. Yule, with his comrades, in active campaign service, traveled through Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas, and with his command participated in the first battle of Vicksburg, in the summer of 1862. He continued to take part in the various engagements in which his regiment was involved until the 11th of January, 1863, when, in the engagement at Arkansas Post, he received a wound which resulted in the loss of his right leg. The grievously wounded man was removed to the Lawson hospital, in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, where he remained until the following March, when he was honorably discharged and returned to his home, at Lodi, Wisconsin. Afterward, in recognition of his service as a soldier and the sacrifice which he had made in the cause of the Union, Mr. Yule was appointed provost marshal for his Wisconsin district. He was elected also to the offices of justice of the peace and township treasurer, both of which he retained until 1867, when he was elected register of deeds of Columbia county, an office of which he continued the incumbent eight successive years." It may further be said that in later years Mr. Yule vitalized the memories and association of his military career as a soldier of the Union by maintaining

active affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic, in which great patriotic organization he was one of the most popular and influential members of Rawlins Post, at Beatrice, Nebraska, in which he passed the various official chairs and with which he continued to be actively identified until the close of his life.

Mr. Yule never permitted himself to view his physical infirmity as a definite handicap, and it is certain that it did not interfere with his productive usefulness and service. After his retirement from the office of register of deeds for Columbia county, Wisconsin, he continued to be there associated with Miles T. Alverson in the abstract and loan business until April, 1879. He then sold his interest in the business and came with his family to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he engaged in the loaning of money on real-estate security and where he forthwith put his previous experience to effective use by turning his attention to the preparation of a set of abstracts of realty titles from the original records of the county. In this commendable and important work he had as his efficient coadjutor his son John T., and they continued to be actively associated in the conducting of the well ordered abstract business until his death, since which time the son has individually continued the enterprise, as noted in the review of his career, on other pages of this volume.

Mr. Yule entered most heartily and helpfully into the communal life of Beatrice and Gage county and his ability and sterling integrity marked him as specially eligible for service in offices of local trust. It has already been noted in this memoir that he served one term as mayor of Beatrice, a position in which he gave most progressive and efficient administration, and that he held for one term the office of city treasurer. In the late '80s he was elected representative of Beatrice township on the county board of supervisors, in which office he served three consecutive terms, during the last two of which he was chairman of the board. He was one of those interested in the establishing of the canning factory at Beatrice and became a member of the board of directors of the company operating the same, besides which he was a director of the Beatrice Street Railway Company. In politics Mr. Yule, with consummate strength of conviction, never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party and he gave in a local way yeoman service in behalf of its cause. He became affiliated with the Masonic fraternity in 1858 and was actively identified with the various Masonic bodies in Beatrice at the time of his death.

The wife of the young manhood of Mr. Yule continued as his gracious and loved companion and helpmeet until she was summoned to eternal rest, her death having occurred April 11, 1881. They became the parents of four children, concerning whom the following brief data are available: Bessie J. became the wife of Louis E. Walker and is now deceased; John T. is individually mentioned on other pages of this publication; Albert G. was a boy at the time of his death, in 1866; and Mary Grace, who completed her education by attending Brownell Hall, in the city of Omaha, is now the wife of John Gray, living in Los Angeles, California.

In 1884 Mr. Yule contracted a second marriage, when Miss Mary H. Burke became his wife. She was born in the Dominion of Canada, but was a resident of Beatrice at the time of her marriage. No children were born of this union and Mrs. Yule survived her husband, she being now a resident of Los Angeles, California.

CLARENCE W. GRAFF. — The vice-president of the representative mercantile corporation conducting business in the city of Beatrice under the title of The John H. von Steen Company, is recognized as one of the vital and representative business men of the younger generation in his native county and is further entitled to recognition by reason of being a scion of one of the well known and honored pioneer families of the county, within whose limits his paternal grandfather, Joseph Graff, established his residence at an early period in the history of development in Nebraska. Joseph Graff became one of the pioneer exponents of agricultural and live-stock

industry in Gage county and here he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. On the old homestead farm was born Henry Graff, father of him whose name initiates this paragraph, and he was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days — an environment that made for the development of self-reliance, ambition, and appreciation of the true values in the scheme of human thought and action. Henry Graff received the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period and after having achieved independent success through his association with agricultural industry he was for a long term of years engaged in the agricultural implement business in the fine little town of Wymore, this county. He developed a large and prosperous enterprise in this line and continued his activities in the same until his death, in 1907. He was influential in civic affairs in his community, was a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and though not ambitious for public office he showed his loyalty by consenting to become the candidate of his party for the office of treasurer of the city of Wymore, his service in this capacity continuing for one term. He was a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church, as is also his widow, who still maintains her home at Wymore. Of the two children, Clarence W., immediate subject of this sketch, is the elder, and the younger, Hazel, remains with her widowed mother. Mrs. Susan (Myers) Graff, widow of Henry Graff, was born in the state of Wisconsin and accompanied her parents on their removal to Gage county, Nebraska, where her marriage to Mr. Graff was later solemnized and where she has since maintained her home, her gracious personality having won to her a specially wide circle of friends. Her father, the late Valentine Myers, likewise was one of the pioneers of this county, and became one of its substantial farmers and highly esteemed citizens.

Clarence W. Graff continued his studies in the public schools until he had completed the curriculum of the high school at Wymore, his birth having occurred in the village of Blue Springs, this county, on the 8th of October, 1889. In further preparation for the active responsibilities of life he took an effective course in the business college at Beatrice. For five months thereafter he held a clerical position in a telegraph office in this city, and he then became associated with the John H. von Steen Company, in which he is now one of the interested principals and of which he has been the vice-president since 1917. His popularity in his native county is on a parity with his recognized ability and progressiveness as a business man and he takes most loyal interest in all things touching the civic and material welfare of his home city and county. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he is affiliated with Beatrice Lodge, No. 619, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

April 25, 1917, recorded the marriage of Mr. Graff to Miss Augusta R. Kilpatrick, daughter of Joseph M. Kilpatrick, of Beatrice, Nebraska, and they are popular factors in the representative social life of the Gage county metropolis. They hold membership in the parish of Christ Church, Protestant Episcopal, of which both are communicants.

C. C. JOHNSON, who is now living retired in the village of Filley, has proved himself a man of might, like Tubal Cain of old, and for many years he followed the sturdy trade of blacksmith, through the medium of which he achieved the prosperity that enables him to pass the gracious evening of his life in well earned peace and comfort.

Mr. Johnson was born in Denmark, on the 26th of February, 1844, and is a son of John Christ and Anna Christina (Christiansen) Anderson, the latter of whom passed her entire life in Denmark and the former of whom came to the United States in 1884, settling first in Illinois, but a few months later coming to Nebraska, where he passed the remainder of his life. Of the ten children only two are now living, the subject of this review being the elder and Nels being a resident of the city of Chicago. The father was a blacksmith by trade and after coming to the United States

he lived retired until his death, the closing period of his life having been passed in the home of his son C. C., subject of this sketch. Both he and his wife were earnest communicants of the Danish Lutheran church.

C. C. Johnson acquired his early education in his native land and there learned the trade of blacksmith under the effective direction of his father. He was twenty-eight years of age when he came to the United States and established his residence in the city of Kankakee, Illinois, where he was employed three years in one blacksmith shop. He continued to follow his trade in that state for seven years and then, in 1879, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he opened a little blacksmith shop four miles north of the present village of Filley. When this village was platted he here established its first blacksmith shop, and he was not only the first citizen to erect a house in the village but also the first to buy a lot in the newly established cemetery, in which the remains of his stepmother were the first interred. He continued actively and successfully in the work of his trade, with a large and representative patronage, until 1902, since which time he has lived virtually retired. Mr. Johnson has gained and retained the unqualified confidence and esteem of the community in which he has long maintained his home. He has a little farm of nine acres and finds recreation in giving to the same his personal supervision. He is independent in politics and is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his wife.

In 1873 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Johnson to Miss Anna Nelson, who likewise was born in Denmark. She is the daughter of Christ Nelson, whose entire life was passed in Denmark, his widow having finally come to the United States and having been a resident of Iowa at the time of her death, in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson became the parents of six children, of whom three are living: Lars Jansen is now a resident of Iowa; Sena Peterson maintains his home in the state of Texas; and Mrs. Johnson is the oldest of the number. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born five children: Fritz owns and operates a farm of eighty acres, four miles northeast of Filley; Nels is a farm employe in this county, as is also Louis; Lena is the wife of Chester Hill, of Filley, and they have one son, Lloyd Everett; and Clara remains at the parental home.

JOHN O. ADAMS. — The chance traveler who might have found his way in the spring of 1857 into what is now the beautiful Nemaha valley would have seen in what is now Adams township, Gage county, something that looked like the beginning of a home, but, knowing that no settlers were in the neighborhood, he would have been at a loss to understand the meaning thereof until he chanced to notice, stretched between two saplings, a tablet of bark, upon which was written, "John O. Adams claims this tract of land, this 30th day of March, 1857."

The late John O. Adams was born in New Jersey, July 17, 1808, and when a child was taken by his parents to Kentucky. In 1838 he moved to Dubois county, Indiana, and in 1840 he married Letitia Harris, a native of Kentucy, born January 4, 1812. Mr. Adams engaged in farming in Dubois county until the fall of 1856, when he started west. On October 20th the family arrived at the home of a brother in Atchison county, Missouri. In the early spring Mr. Adams started to look over the country and find a suitable place to locate, and the result was his making a claim in Gage county, Nebraska, as above stated. This locality was known as Clay county at that time. With two covered wagons drawn by oxen which he had driven from Indiana, he and his family came to that new home. Not a wagon track was to be seen or a habitation found for many miles from the spot where he located. They had to build a bridge to cross the Nemaha river. On Section 26, Adams township, half a mile east of where the town of Adams now stands, they unloaded their goods, Mr. Adams's wife and their seven children having accompanied him. They cut and hewed logs, and just one month from the day they arrived they moved into their new home.

Here the family assiduously set about to develop a farm out of the wild and unbroken prairie. This was ten years before Nebraska became a state. No homestead laws were in existence, and Mr. Adams held squatter sovereignty over one hundred and sixty acres until he could file and prove up. Here he reared his family amid the pioneer conditions, and he prospered. Before his death he divided a section of land among his children and lived to see them all well established in life.

The township and village of Adams were named in his honor. Historians concede him

JOHN O. ADAMS

to be the first permanent white settler in Gage county. He was one of the founders of the Methodist church in the township and was a devoted member. He was a Republican in politics and represented old Clay county on the board of commissioners. He was a blacksmith by trade and conducted a shop on his farm. This worthy pioneer passed from the scene of earthly activities December 24, 1887. His wife had preceded him to eternal rest many years previously, her death having occurred November 21, 1867.

They became the parents of eight children, concerning whom the following data are available: Nelson A. resides at Adams; Nancy became the wife of B. P. Zuver and is now deceased; Isaac and Leander are deceased; John Q. was the next and his whereabouts are unknown; Naomi became the wife of Thomas Davis Mosby and lives in Adams township; Anna is deceased; and one child died in infancy.

CALVIN STARR, M. D. — Dr. Calvin Starr, who was nearly ninety-four years of age at the time when he passed from the stage of life's mortal endeavors, came to Nebraska at the beginning of the decade following its admission as one of the sovereign states of the Union, and Gage county was favored in having eventually gained him as a citizen and as an able and distinguished representative of the noble profession to which he gave himself with all of earnestness and self-abnegation for more than sixty years. To his name and memory the county shall ever pay a tribute of veneration and affection, and this publication would stultify its consistency were there failure to enter at least brief record concerning the singularly interesting and truly unassuming and exalted life record of this venerated citizen, who passed to eternal rest on the 25th of November, 1915, at his home in the city of Beatrice.

Dr. Starr was one of the favored mortals whom nature launches into the world with the heritage of sturdy ancestry, a splendid physique, a masterful mind and energy enough for many men. Added to these attributes were exceptional intellectual and professional attainments and the useful lessons of a wide and varied experience stored away. He was a type of the true gentleman and a representative of the best in the communal life, dignified and yet possessed of an affability and abiding human sympathy that won him warm friends among all classes and conditions of men.

Dr. Starr, a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of the old Buckeye state, was born on the old homestead farm of his parents, in Franklin county, Ohio, and the date

of his nativity was April 2, 1822. It is worthy of special note that this ancestral homestead, now in part occupied by the city of Columbus, capital of Ohio, was an integral portion of the original tract of land deeded by the government to an ancestor of Dr. Starr in recognition of his services as a patriot soldier in the war of the Revolution. An appreciable portion of the original allotment of land remained for several generations in the possession of the Starr family, and Dr. Starr himself owned at one time a part that now lies between the Ohio State University and the state capitol.

The youngest in a family of eleven children, all of whom attained to years of maturity, Dr. Starr passed the period of his childhood and early youth under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the home farm, his father, John Starr having become one of the substantial exponents of agricultural industry in Franklin county, where he reclaimed a productive farm from the virtual forest wilderness. John Starr was born in Nova Scotia, and as a young man he established his residence in Connecticut, where was solemnized his marriage to Miss Betsey Havens, a native of Groton, that state. In 1812, John Starr and his wife removed to the wilds of Ohio and settled in Franklin county, the site of the present capital city of the state having at that time been marked by a single log house. Living up to the full tension of pioneer life, John Starr and his noble wife passed the residue of their lives in Franklin county. He was a man of strong mind and sterling character — a citizen who was influential in community affairs, he having been in his young manhood a successful teacher and the passing years having continuously widened his intellectual horizon. His death occurred in 1837, and his widow survived him by thirty years, she having passed to the life eternal in 1865. Both were devoted Christians in faith and service, and in politics Mr. Starr was to be found a staunch supporter of the cause of the old-line Whig party.

Dr. Calvin Starr acquired his preliminary education in the common schools of his native county and later he completed a four years' course in Central College, at Blendon, Ohio, where his alert mind and distinctive ambition enabled him to make the best possible use of the higher academic advantages thus offered. In consonance with well formulated plans he finally began the study of medicine under private preceptorship, in accordance with the custom of the day, and in the furtherance of his technical education he took two full courses of lectures in historic old Starling Medical College, which is now a part of the University of Ohio. In completing his admirable fortification for the work of his exacting profession Dr. Starr entered the Homeopathic Medical College at Cleveland, Ohio, one of the first and most important Homeopathic colleges in the west, and in this institution he was graduated February 21, 1851, with the well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. In this connection it may consistently be stated that at the time of his death Dr. Starr was the oldest alumnus of this college, which, about the year 1912, was removed from Cleveland to Columbus, where it became the constituent Homeopathic medical school of the University of Ohio. The Doctor, a pioneer of the benignant system of Homeopathy in the west, ever retained a deep affection for his alma mater, and after his death his widow, Mrs. Julia C. Starr, M. D., received a letter from a member of the faculty of the college, the context of the communication containing statements that are worthy of preservation in this connection: "In the death of Dr. Starr our college loses its oldest alumnus, and one whose name was frequently mentioned in faculty meetings, especially in connection with the oil painting of Hahnemann that Dr. Starr presented to the college. It is a privilege granted to but few men to be permitted to engage actively in the practice of medicine for more than sixty years, and to his family it is an occasion of just pride to know that the husband and father was permitted to accomplish so great an amount of good in the world." It may further be noted that the Hahnemann portrait thus presented by Dr. Starr now occupies a place of honor in the

Homeopathic building of the University of Ohio and that since his death there has been attached thereto a metal plate with the following inscription: "Calvin Starr, M. D., Class of 1851, Donor."

After having been graduated, with high honors, Dr. Starr began his professional novitiate by engaging in active general practice at Xenia, Ohio, but one year later he removed to Springfield, that state, where he remained five years. Becoming convinced that a greater field of usefulness lay open for him in connection with the rapidly developing west, Dr. Starr removed to Iowa City, Iowa, in the year 1857, and as one of the most able and honored pioneer physicians of the Hawkeye state he continued in active practice at Iowa City for twenty years, within which he built up a large and representative professional business, besides contributing much to civic and material progress and prosperity in his home community.

In 1877, ten years after Nebraska had gained the dignity of statehood, Dr. Starr came with his family to this now favored commonwealth, and after successfully continuing in practice at Nebraska City for five years he came, in 1882, to Beatrice, judicial center of Gage county, which place remained the central stage of his earnest and able professional activities during the remainder of his long and useful life, he having been a veritable patriarch of the community at the time of his death. In his profession and as a man he was ever one to remember and aid "those who were forgotten" and he bore optimistic cheer and encouragement as well as professional ministration to those in suffering or distress, so that it may well be understood that he was loved in every community in which he had lived and labored. At this juncture may consistently be reproduced an appreciative estimate that was a part of an obituary article published in a Beatrice paper at the time of his demise:

"Dr. Starr had marked abilities as a physician and as a man of high moral character and kindly disposition. On account of his advanced years, nearly ninety-four, he had been confined to his home for some time, but his influence has continued to go forth with all who came to see him. He inherited those virtues which go to make sterling manhood, but he did not rest content with mere ancestral bequest. While true to the faith of his fathers in every essential, yet he thought for himself and followed the truth as God gave him to see it, the finest product of his religious belief being a character that gave him the absolute confidence of his fellow men — and that is the final test of religion." The Doctor was an active member and liberal supporter of the Congregational church of Beatrice, as is also his widow.

As a young man Dr. Starr wedded Miss Sophia J. McPherson, of Xenia, Ohio, and she passed the closing years of her life at Iowa City, Iowa, where she died April 23, 1876. Of this union were born five children, concerning whom the following brief data are given: George B. now resides in the state of California; Clarence A. is a resident of Winona Lake, Indiana; Emma H. was a resident of Lincoln at the time of her death; and Mary P. and John A. maintain their residence in California, the former being the wife of W. S. Brayton.

On the 27th of June, 1878, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Starr to Dr. Julia C. (Candee) Scudder, of Muscatine, Iowa, her first husband having been Horace Scudder, and the one child of this union was Horace, Jr., who died in 1906. Mrs. Starr was born at Muscatine, Iowa, and is a daughter of Sheldon N. and Lucy A. (Starr) Candee, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Ohio. The parents were numbered among the honored pioneers of both Iowa and Nebraska and they passed the closing period of their lives in the latter commonwealth, the father having devoted the major part of his active career to the carriage-factory business, and both having been residents of Beatrice, Nebraska, at the time of their death.

Dr. Julia C. Starr, a woman of high professional attainments, became the able and valued coadjutor of her husband in the control of their large and representative joint prac-

tice in Gage county, and she still maintains her office at the attractive home at 409 North Sixth street, Beatrice. She was graduated in the medical department of the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, and an unequivocal success has attended her benignant service in the practice of her profession, in which she has gained status as one of the leading women physicians and surgeons of Nebraska. She still continues in active practice and her gracious womanhood and gentle sympathy have enhanced the effectiveness of her earnest labors in the alleviation of human suffering, the while she has gained the affectionate regard of all who have received her ministrations and counsel. She has a large practice, in connection with which she spares herself neither time nor effort, and she insistently keeps in touch with the advances made in medical and surgical science, through recourse to the best standard and periodical literature of her profession, the while she is a gracious and popular figure in the representative civic and social life of her home city, where her circle of friends is coincident with that of her acquaintances. No children were born of her second marriage, but the Doctor holds hallowed memories of the gracious relations that obtained at all times during the years of her conjugal and professional association with the honored subject of this memoir.

WILLIAM HOLM has identified himself most fully with the civic and material interests of Gage county, for he is not only a representative merchant in the village of Virginia, but is also the owner of a well improved farm estate in Sherman township. He is a native son of the west and has exemplified its progressive spirit in the varied activities that have brought to him a generous share of temporal prosperity.

Mr. Holm was born in Pottawatomie county, Kansas, on the 6th of January, 1873, and is a son of Charles J. and Louise (Anderson) Holm, who were born and reared in Sweden, where their marriage was solemnized. In 1865 the parents came to the United States and settled in Kansas, where the father became a pioneer farmer of Pottawatomie county and improved his farm of one hundred and twenty acres, and where he passed the remainder of his life. William Holm was the youngest member in a family of four children and was six years of age at the time of his mother's death. John E., the eldest of the children, is a farmer in Kansas; Charles A., who was for several years engaged in the plumbing business at Virginia, Gage county, is now a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, and is a traveling salesman; and Frank has the active charge of the fine Gage county farm of his brother William, of this review. For his second wife Charles J. Holm wedded Miss Lottie Carlson and the one child of this union is Emma, the wife of Walter F. McGaffey, of Virginia, Gage county. Charles J. Holm was a Republican in politics and he and each of his wives held the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

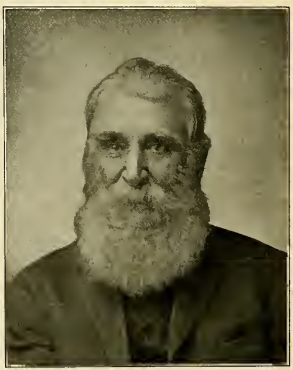
The public schools of the Sunflower state afforded to William Holm his early educational advantages and the same were supplemented by a course in shorthand and typewriting in Pond's Business College, in the city of Topeka, as well as by further commercial instruction in the Kansas City Business University. In his youth, after leaving the farm, Mr. Holm became associated with the retail lumber business, at Olesburg, Kansas, and in the spring of 1893 he came to Gage county and established his residence in Virginia. Here for two years he conducted a lumber yard, and for seventeen years thereafter he was successfully established in the hardware business, besides serving simultaneously as postmaster of the village. He finally sold his hardware stock and business and eighteen months later he purchased the stock and business of J. S. Hubka. He expanded the business by installing a large and well selected stock of general merchandise and has since conducted a most substantial and prosperous enterprise. He is the owner of a well improved farm property of three hundred and twenty acres, and the same is under the active charge of his brother Frank, as previously noted. On this place he is giving special at-

tention to the raising of full-blood Holstein cattle, besides which he is developing a successful dairy business in the connection.

In 1896 Mr. Holm wedded Miss Bessie Wright, who was born and reared in Gage county, and who is a daughter of Amos L. Wright, a retired farmer residing in the village of Virginia, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Holm have two children — Grace A., who is a student in the Beatrice high school; and Mildred Genevieve, who had the distinction of receiving first prize as the best baby girl at the Gage county fair in 1917. Mrs. Holm is an active member of the Christian church.

Mr. Holm has been active and liberal as a citizen of intense public spirit, has held various township offices, and commands inviolable place in popular confidence and good will.

NELSON ADAMS. — The subject of this record has the distinction of being the oldest living settler in Gage county. When a lad of sixteen years he arrived in what is now Adams township, in company with his father, John O. Adams, who was the first permanent settler of the county. Mr. Adams was born in Dubois county, Indiana, February 24, 1841. He grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Nebraska and at an early age began to aid in the development and improvement of the old homestead. In September, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Second Nebraska Regiment, for a term of four months, or during the war. He was sent to Fort Kearney and from there to Camp Blue, where the winter was passed. In the spring of 1865, the regiment was honorably discharged and young Nelson returned home The next year he was united in marriage to Miss Laura Haskins and they settled on a farm he had purchased. But they were destined to enjoy their companionship for only a brief season, for four months and eight days after their marriage Mrs. Adams passed away. In April of that year Mr. Adams made a trip of over five hundred miles, into Colorado. He drove overland from Nebraska City with a load of produce — eggs, butter, corn, etc. — and the Indians made it so uncomfortable for him that he was compelled to hasten to Denver. He had entered a homestead in Section 25, Adams township, and had built a log house sixteen by twenty-two feet in dimensions. He returned from the west and in 1868 he married Miss Lydia J. Wilson, a native of Putnam county, Indiana. Of this union were born two children, Nancy E., who is the wife of C. B. Ashcroft and resides in Wyoming, and Letitia O., who died in childhood. The mother of these children passed away, and the present Mrs. Adams was in her girlhood Emily J. Dilworth. She is a native of Grant county, Kentucky, where she was born April 7, 1843. Her parents,



NELSON ADAMS

Lindsey and Sarah (Simpson) Dilworth, came to Nebraska in 1863, settling in Johnson county. They gave the name to the town of Crab Orchard, from the large number of wild crab-apple trees growing in the vicinity. By a former marriage, to William H. Stoner, who was a Union soldier in the Civil war, Mrs. Adams became the mother of three children, the eldest of whom is William H. Stoner, who resides in Cass county, Minnesota, and is the only one now living. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Adams, Mrs. Adams was the widow of G. T. Simpson, and their one son,

Hugh M., died at the age of seventeen years.

Nelson Adams successfully followed farming until 1902, when he retired, and he now makes his home in Adams. He has been a witness of the vast changes which have taken place in Gage county, having been a member of the first family to establish a home here. Mr. Adams is a Methodist in religious belief, and in politics is a Republican. He held various township offices years ago, but is now retired from all activities.

ELIJAH FILLEY. — In the summer of 1867, the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood, Hon. Elijah Filley, a young man of industry, self-reliance, and courage, came with his wife to Gage county and numbered himself among its sterling pioneers. He and his faithful wife ran the full gamut of pioneer experience and their reminiscences of the early days are most graphic and interesting. They made the overland journey to Nebraska with teams and wagons and girded themselves with the indomitable valor and undauntable purpose that are ever the prerequisite of success under the conditions that must obtain in opening a new country to civilization and progress. Mr. Filley has been in the most significant sense the architect of his own fortunes and few men have played a larger or more benignant part in connection with the development and upbuilding of Gage county along both civic and industrial lines. Of this no further assurance need be given than the statement that a township and a village of the county have been named in honor of this venerable pioneer citizen, while it has been his to represent Gage county in both houses of the state legislature, to gain through his own ability and well ordered energies a substantial fortune, the while he has so ordered his course as to merit and receive at all stages the unqualified respect and confidence of his fellow men. It is most gratifying to be able to present in this publication a tribute to Mr. Filley as a pioneer of pioneers and to enter brief review of a career that has been marked by earnest and honest endeavor. He and his wife now live in gracious retirement in the city of Des Moines, Iowa, and though venerable in age the years rest lightly upon them, while they find a full measure of satisfaction in reverting to the attractive social and material conditions and environment which they have aided in creating in Gage county, Nebraska. Mr. Filley was born in Jackson county, Michigan, on the 28th of November, 1839, and is a son of Ammi and Mary (Marvin) Filley, both natives of Bloomfield, Connecticut, where they were reared and educated. Ammi Filley, a member of one of the early colonial families of New England, was born January 2, 1808, and he continued his residence in Connecticut until 1833, when he immigrated to Michigan, which state was not admitted to the union until 1837. He became one of the pioneers of Jackson county, where he reclaimed a farm from the forest and where he continued his active alliance with agricultural industry about thirty years. In the summer of 1867 he retired from the active labors that had so long been his portion and accompanied his son Elijah, of this review, to Gage county, Nebraska, where he remained until his death and where he received during the intervening period the deepest filial care and solicitude on the part of his son and the latter's family. He was seventy-two years of age at the time of his death, which occurred May 13, 1880. Ammi Filley was one of the gallant sons of the nation who went forth in defense of the Union when the Civil war was precipitated on the country. In response to President Lincoln's first call, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Second Michigan Cavalry, and with this gallant command he served throughout the entire course of the war. He was a skilled sharpshooter and participated in many of the important battles marking the progress of the great conflict. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and the famous charge at Fort Donelson, and previously had been with his command in heavy campaigns and engagements in the southern states farther to the east. In later years he found pleasure in vitalizing the associations of his military career by affiliation with the Grand Army of

the Republic. Ammi and Mary (Marvin) Filley became the parents of four sons and two daughters, and of the number only Elijah is living in 1918.

Elijah Filley was but five years old at the time of his mother's death, and the home was broken up. For about three years thereafter he lived in the home of a man named Crandall, a farmer in Jackson county, Michigan, and his father then contracted a second marriage and re-established a home for his children. However, with so little consideration and kindness did the stepmother treat Elijah Filley that he was compelled to leave home when about twelve years of age, and the immature youth began to provide for himself by taking up the arduous work of plowing for a neighbor farmer for a compensation of six dollars a month. In reminiscent way he frequently reverts to this period of his life, when he drove the plodding ox-team to the plow and did other heavy farm work. He continued to be employed by the month as a farm hand during the summer seasons and attended school during the intervening winter terms, the while he worked mornings and evenings to pay his board.

In 1858, when nineteen years of age, Mr. Filley went to Joliet, Illinois, and there he was employed by the firm of Poole & Ring on one of the canal boats on the old Michigan & Illinois canal until the freezing of the canal put a stop to such navigation. During the following winter he was employed in sawing wood for use on railroad locomotives, and he recalls that the buzz-saw used for the purpose was operated by a treadmill on which power was furnished by horses. In 1859 Mr. Filley went to Odell, Livingston county, Illinois, and after working for a time on a farm in that vicinity he made his way to LaSalle county, that state, where for three years he was engaged in herding, driving, and dealing in live stock, in the employ of William Strawn, an extensive farmer and stock dealer of the day. In company with Mr. Strawn he made the overland trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and incidentally accumulated a herd of one hundred and forty-six fat cattle at Des Moines, Iowa. With this large herd they then started for Chicago, but Mr. Strawn was summoned to his home, when fifteen miles east of Des Moines, so that Mr. Filley alone had charge of driving the cattle through to the future metropolis of the west. During his three years of association with Mr. Strawn he gained knowledge and experience that proved of inestimable value to him in later operations of an independent order that enabled him to lay the substantial foundation for his success. After leaving Mr. Strawn he continued to be engaged in farming in Livingston county, Illinois, until 1867, in the summer of which year he provided himself with three covered wagons and three good teams, and with these set forth on the overland journey to the new state of Nebraska, his young wife accompanying him on this momentous trip. In due course of time they arrived in Gage county, and here Mr. Filley utilized the money which he had previously acquired to effect the purchase of six quarter-sections of government land, besides which he filed claim on a homestead of equal area. His horses died soon after his arrival in the county and he finally acquired ox teams and began breaking the virgin prairie soil to pay for his oxen. He continued to break soil for others for about three years and in the meanwhile established a pioneer home on his own land. Instead of following the custom of the majority of the early settlers by providing a dug-out or sod house, Mr. Filley determined to make a residence of less primitive type. In the meanwhile he and his wife lived in a tent and around the same they eventually built a stone house of one room, this structure having in later years been familiarly known as "The Old Stone House," and constituting one of the veritable landmarks of this section of the state. Mr. Filley himself quarried the stone and burned the lime for mortar, while Mrs. Filley hauled the material to the site of the new home by means of the ox team. Together these ambitious pioneers mixed the mortar and laid the walls of the little dwelling, after which a roof was constructed. They lived in the one room during the first winter and in the following summer

they added to the domicile, eventually making the house one of good size and excellent provisions for comfort. In this dwelling they continued to maintain their home for sixteen years.

Soon after coming to Nebraska Mr. Filley put his previous experience to good use by buying cattle to stock his large farm, and soon he developed a prosperous business in the feeding and shipping of cattle. On the completing of the railroad line to Beatrice he had the distinction of loading the first carload of cattle ever transported from Gage county to Chicago by rail. Later the railroad was extended to the present village of Filley, which was named in his honor and which is situated on a part of his old farm. He there erected a large grain elevator, the same having thereafter been utilized by him for many years in connection with his extensive operations in the buying and shipping of grain.

When the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was completed from Beatrice to Nebraska City, Mr. Filley, in the summer of 1883, founded on the line the town which bears his name and which, as before stated, is located on one of his farms. In 1885 the county authorities conferred upon him a merited distinction, in that they authorized the changing of the name of Mud Creek township to Filley township, a fitting tribute to the sterling pioneer who was the first settler within the limits of that township. Mr. Filley was for a long term of years recognized as the most progressive and substantial farmer, stock-feeder, and stock-shipper in this section of the state, and among his early enterprises of importance was also the owning and operating of a threshing outfit.

About the year 1890 Mr. Filley sold the major part of his large and important real-estate and business interests in Gage county, and settled on a tract of one thousand acres which, in an early day, he had purchased in the adjoining county of Jefferson. This property he improved in excellent order and he operated the same successfully in connection with his extensive stock business for several years — until, in fact, he met with an accident that nearly resulted in his death. He then decided to sell his property and retire from active business, and since that time he and his devoted wife have lived in the serene enjoyment of the gracious rewards of former years of earnest endeavor.

In politics Mr. Filley has been a recognized stalwart in the ranks of the Republican party and as a progressive citizen he wielded much influence in shaping the governmental policies that brought normal development and growth to Gage county. He was elected county commissioner and in this office served two terms, of three years each. In 1881 and 1883 he represented Gage county in the state legislature, and soon after his retirement from this office he was elected state senator from his district, in which position he served until 1885. His record as a legisaltor has become a very part of the history of the state and is illumined by his characteristic loyalty and public spirit. Mr. Filley has been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity since 1866, was made a Master Mason and also a Royal Arch Mason in Fairbury, Illinois. He then settled in Nebraska and was a charter member and helped to organize the Blue Lodge, No. 26, also the chapter and commandery at Beatrice, Nebraska. Then he organized Temple Lodge, No. 175, at Filley, and of this he served as master for about twelve years.

Matured and invigorated through the herculean labors and hardships of the pioneer days, the physical constitution of Mr. Filley has been sturdy and thus he retains, as he nears the eightieth milestone on the journey of life, the mental and physical vigor of a man many years his junior, while his loved wife has been his devoted companion and helpmeet for more than half a century — a woman whose strength has been as the number of her days and who had a remarkable share in pioneer experience in the great west, as will be attested by statements yet to be made in this context.

On the 4th of November, 1863, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Filley to Miss Burd, of Pleasant Ridge, Livingston county, Illinois. She was born in Will county, that

state, November 6, 1844, and is a daughter of Silas and Betsey Ann Burd, the former of whom was born in New Jersey, December 8, 1818, and the latter of whom was born in the state of New York, on the 13th of September, 1817. Silas Burd numbered himself among the pioneers of Illinois and later emphasized his pioneer experience by removing with his family to Texas, this action having been taken primarily for the benefit of the health of himself and his wife. Mrs. Filley was a girl of twelve years when the family thus removed to the Lone Star state, and the greater part of the journey was made with teams and wagons. Georgetown, Texas, was made the destination and from that headquarters Mr. Burd engaged in buying and selling cattle and horses. Mrs. Filley accompanied him in his trips about the country to buy stock, and finally, with a herd of about eighty cattle and several ponies, they started overland for Chicago in the spring of 1858. In the meanwhile Mr. Burd had traded his wagons for a top buggy, cattle, etc., and in starting forth on the long journey a sturdy yoke of oxen was provided for the transportation of the camp outfit. The family started on this return trip when Mrs. Filley was a girl of about fifteen years and she assisted in driving the ox team. They had proceeded as far as Waco, Texas, when the father was so stricken with illness as to be unable to proceed farther, and in the camp which they made he died on the 22d of February, 1859, leaving his wife ill in bed and with the care of their two sons and three daughters. Mrs. Filley, the eldest of the children, bravely assumed the care of her mother and the directing of family affairs in general after the remains of the loved father had been laid to rest in Texas soil. After the grass came up in the following spring the little family resumed their weary journey to the east, with the cattle and general camp equipment. On they drove through Texas and the Indian Territory, where they were urged by each successive Indian tribe encountered to give one or more head of the little band of cattle, in order to obtain permission to pass on unmolested, but Mrs. Filley, with a courage and tact beyond her years, contrived to gain this permission without sacrificing the live stock, only one beef steer having been contributed to the Indians. Continuing in the saddle every day, she led the outfit onward until they crossed the Mississippi river at Alton, Illinois, where they were joined by a brother of her mother. Thus reinforced the party continued the journey to Livingston county, Illinois, and in the village of Avoca the family rented a house until the live stock could be sold in the Chicago market, to which Mrs. Filley assisted in driving the cattle from the Texas wilds — in fact she thus made the entire trip from Texas to Chicago on the back of a little Texas pony. After the sale of the cattle the family purchased a farm in Livingston county and there Mrs. Filley remained until her marriage, within a few years after which it was again her portion to endure the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life, as noted in foregoing paragraphs.

Mr. and Mrs. Filley became the parents of six children, concerning whom the following brief data are given: Fitch died at the age of twelve years; Hiram is now a resident of the state of Arkansas; Emma died at the age of eighteen years; Oscar Elijah died in April, 1916, aged forty-six years; Charles Elmer was four years of age at the time of his death; Daisy C. is the wife of Murray A. Scoular, of Des Moines, Iowa.

The foregoing record, implying much to him who can read between the lines as well as appreciate the data of the context itself, will be read with pleasure by the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Filley in Gage county and will prove a definite and worthy contribution to the generic history of this favored section of Nebraska, as their names merit enduring place of honor and distinction on the pages of Gage county history.

SAMUEL RINAKER. — No history of Gage county or the state of Nebraska would be complete without the name of Samuel Rinaker. For nearly a third of a century this able and scholarly lawyer has made his home

Yours truly,
Samuel Rinaker

in the city of Beatrice and has engaged in the active practice of his profession in the state and federal courts. During this entire period of time he, with the several firms of which he has been a member, has enjoyed a lucrative practice at the bar of this county and state. He has been professionally connected from the beginning of his career as a lawyer here with a large portion of the important litigation arising in this section of the country, and by sheer force of character, learning and abilities of a high order, he has embedded his name deeply and permanently in the legal history of his state and country.

Mr. Rinaker was born at Carlinville, Macoupin county, Illinois, on the 14th day of September, 1860. He is the second son of the late John I. Rinaker and Clarissa Keplinger, his wife. Besides Samuel, the surviving children of these worthy parents are the eldest son, Thomas Rinaker, a prominent lawyer of Carlinville and for many years his father's partner in the practice of the law; John I. Rinaker, a well known and successful architect of the city of Springfield, Illinois, and Judge Lewis Rinaker, who after several years' successful practice at the Chicago bar was elected judge of the county court of Cook county, Illinois, and held this important office four years.

Shortly after locating in Beatrice, Mr. Rinaker married Miss Carrie Palmer Mayo, who like himself was a native of Carlinville and who was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Palmer) Mayo. Her father was a prominent and influential citizen of Macoupin county and her mother was a sister of the late General John M. Palmer, of whom further mention will be made later on in this sketch.

Mr. and Mrs. Rinaker occupy a handsome and attractive home at the corner of Fifth and Washington streets, Beatrice. Their marriage has proven to be a happy one — lapse of time serving only to cement more firmly the marital bond. To Mr. and Mrs. Rinaker two children have been born, Samuel Mayo Rinaker, a son, and Miss Carrie Rinaker, a daughter. The former after graduating at the Beatrice high school in 1905, with highest honors, entered the Nebraska State University in the autumn of that year and after two years spent in that institution, successfully passed a competive examination for a Rhoades scholarship in Oxford University, England, as a representative from the state of Nebraska. In 1910 he was graduated with honors from that historic institution and, returning to the United States, he entered the law department of Harvard University. After a three years' course at Harvard he took his degree as Bachelor of Laws in the spring of 1914 and in the fall of that year he went to Chicago, Illinois, where he is now well established in the practice of his profession The daughter, Miss Carrie Rinaker, also graduated from the high school of Beatrice, as a member of the class of 1909, and in the autumn of that year was matriculated as a student of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. She attended this institution for some time and is domiciled under the paternal roof.

While pride of ancestry is not a marked characteristic of the American citizen, it is, nevertheless, not only natural but highly commendable that one should feel a just pride in the fact that he has descended from ancestors who were more than ordinarily distinguished in their day and generation. With this thought in mind it is hoped that a brief account of the parents of Samuel Rinaker will not be deemed inappropriate in this sketch of their son.

His father, John I. Rinaker, was one of the best known and widely influential citizens of the great state of Illinois. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in the year 1830. He was bereft of his parents when a child six years of age and was taken to Illinois, where for a few years he made his home with the family of John T. Alden of Sangamon county. When ten years of age he was thrown on his own resources and found a home and occupation on a farm. He acquired the rudiments of an education by attending the common schools of Illinois in the winter time. By great industry, thrift and economy, as well as by close application to his studies, he was finally enrolled as a student in the Illinois Col-

lege at Jacksonville, where he remained for some time, and later entering McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois, he was graduated from that institution with the class of 1851, receiving afterward from his alma mater the degree of Doctor of Laws. Animated by an ambition to give full scope to his abilities, he entered upon the study of the law in the office of John McAuley Palmer, at Carlinville, shortly after his graduation. His preceptor, in addition to being a lawyer of renown, became afterwards distinguished as a general in the Union army during the great Civil war and as a politician of more than ordinary ability. His services as major general of volunteers began in 1862, and he closed his military career as a commander of an army corps under General Sherman, in 1865. He was elected United States senator from Illinois in 1869 as a Republican and again in 1891, as a Democrat, and he closed his political career as a candidate for the presidency of the United States as a sound-money Democrat, in 1896.

General Rinaker was admitted to the bar at Carlinville, in 1854, and was immediately successful in his profession. In 1862 he took an active part in organizing the One Hundred and Twenty-second Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was elected and commissioned its colonel and served throughout the remainder of the great Civil war at the head of this gallant regiment — participating in its marches, sieges, battles, victories. He was seriously wounded in the battle of Parker's Cross Roads, December 31, 1862, but as soon as he recovered he rejoined his command, and on the 13th day of March, 1865, a month before Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, he was breveted brigadier general of volunteers, on account of "great and meritorious services". At the close of the war he returned to Carlinville and resumed the practice of his profession. He rapidly achieved success as a lawyer and great prominence as an orator and politician. He began life as a Democrat but in 1858 became affiliated with the rising, young Republican party, and to the end of his long and useful life he remained a loyal member of that great national organization — eminent and influential in its counsels, honoring it and frequently honored by it, and he closed a conspicuously honorable political career as a member of the congress of the United States to which he was elected in 1894, from the Sixteenth congressional district of Illinois — a district then and now strongly Democratic. He died at Eustis, Florida, where he was spending the winter with his wife, on the 15th day of January, 1915, in his eighty-fifth year, bequeathing to his posterity the example and influence of a life crowded with duties faithfully performed and of honors modestly and worthily borne. His venerable wife, though near the bounds of life, still survives her distinguished husband, the object of the tender solicitude and veneration of a host of relatives and friends.

Samuel Rinaker spent his childhood, youth and early manhood in the little city of Carlinville and acquired his elementary education in the public schools of that city. At the age of sixteen he entered Blackburn College, also located at Carlinville, from which institution he graduated in the classical course with the class of 1880. He then pursued a course of study in the business college at Jacksonville, Illinois, and having through these agencies laid the foundation for the study of the law he entered the law department of Yale College (now University) prosecuting his studies during the years of 1882 and 1883 in that historic institution and afterward completing his legal studies in the law office of his father and brother at Carlinville. He was admitted to the bar of Illinois in the autumn of 1884, by the supreme court of that state. In February, 1885, he came to the city of Beatrice, then a hustling, growing, promising western town of probably five thousand people. Upon his arrival here he formed a partnership for the practice of the law with the late Nathan Kirk Griggs, under the firm name of Griggs & Rinaker.

Both partners were splendidly endowed with all those qualities of intellect, learning and character which are indispensable to great

success in the legal profession. Mr. Griggs was from Indiana. He came to Beatrice in June, 1867, and was therefore a pioneer lawyer of Gage county. He was a man of boundless energy and teeming industry, a careful practitioner of the law and a most formidable antagonist in the trial of causes. Besides being an unusually skillful and adroit trial lawyer he was an office lawyer of exceptional ability. He was forty-four years of age and at the very zenith of his powers. He brought to the co-partnership a wide experience as a lawyer, politician and legislator. He had served the United States six years as our consul at Chemitz, Saxony, a period which had produced the same effect on his mind and character as a college education might have done, and he was cosmopolitan in learning, taste, sympathy. He was the most variously endowed of any of the lawyers of the state with whom he was contemporary, being at once poet, singer, composer of songs and music, orator, writer, and lecturer — and excelling in all. As an indication of the esteem in which he was held as well as an indication of the mental equipment and attitude of its writer, on certain matters, attention is called to the following letter:

Carlinville, Ill., August 26, 1910.

Hon. N. K. Griggs, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:—

Several days ago I had the pleasure to receive a copy of your address, entitled "Christ in America's Life," for which accept my thanks. I was pleased with the ideas which you advanced therein and with the striking and elegant manner in which you expressed them. You show that Christianity is the vital and conservative force in all moral progress, the solvent of the refractory problems that confront human society in its onward march to a higher and better destiny. You make plain that religions are the creations of men, but that Christianity is the gift of God to man, that it is a force irresistible, immaculate and immortal and that while permeated with that force, America will lead the world to the longed for Golden Age.

JOHN I. RINAKER.

The junior member of this law firm was by education, training, ambition and abilities well calculated to supplement the experience and abilities of its senior, and he possessed necessary qualities to success which Mr. Griggs lacked to some extent. The success of the firm was immediate and lasting and each partner grew toward the intellectual stature of the other with a uniformity and certainty rarely seen in such relationships.

In 1890 Mr. Griggs accepted an appointment from the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company as its attorney for the western division of this great corporation and was assigned to the state of Wyoming and other inter-mountain states. He held this position until his death, which occurred while he was journeying to the northwest from his home in Lincoln, in the service of his company, at Alliance, Nebraska, on Sunday morning, September 4, 1910, he being found dead in his berth on the sleeping car at that time and place.

After Mr. Griggs accepted this appointment the late Robert S. Bibb was admitted to the co-partnership which thereafter for some time was known as Griggs, Rinaker & Bibb. But in 1893, on the removal of Mr. Griggs to Lincoln, his name was dropped from the firm name, which thereafter was designated as Rinaker & Bibb. Following the death of Mr. Bibb, in May, 1907, Mr. Rinaker practiced his profession alone until the year 1909, when he became associated with Mr. A. H. Kidd, of Beatrice, in the practice of the law under the firm name of Rinaker & Kidd, a title by which it is still known and under which it does business.

His natural amiability of character and great adaptability to the profession of the law, have enabled Mr. Rinaker always to take a leading place in the business of his several firms, and this by common consent stripped of every semblance of jealousy or envy. The volume of business with which he has been professionally connected in the various courts of the state and country has been great and varied in character. He has numbered amongst his clients, public officials and public bodies, railway companies, banks and banking institutions, manufacturing and mercantile concerns, loan associations and agencies, general corpor-

ations, firms and individuals. His practice has not been confined to the courts of the state of Nebraska alone, but it has embraced the courts of several other states and the great national courts of the country.

Mr. Rinaker is a trained and skillful trial lawyer; he possesses an accurate and a usable knowledge of the rules and principles of the law and their practical application to the trial of causes. He is eminent in counsel, clear and concise in statement, whether of fact or law, discriminating and logical in argument, courtly and dignified in address, fair, just, dispassionate. Though earnest and forceful in presenting his case to court or jury he is suave, self-possessed, deferential. He is a successful trial lawyer and as an advocate and minister of justice, no member of the legal profession in Nebraska is held in higher esteem or commands greater consideration from judges and courts than Samuel Rinaker.

Though eminently qualified for public life, whether in the judicial, legislative or administrative branches of our government, Mr. Rinaker has, in the main, steadfastly refused to enter the political arena as a seeker of office. In 1896 he was put forward by his friends as the Republican candidate for county attorney of Gage county and was triumphantly elected. He was reëlected to the same office in 1888. With these exceptions he has never permitted his name to be brought forward for any political office whatsoever. He has, however, served his community most acceptably as a member of the Beatrice school board, and since it was founded, twenty-five years ago, to the present moment he has been a director of the Free Public Library of Beatrice. The fact that so far his friends have failed to induce him to look with favor upon a political career has been a source of deep regret to his many friends, both at home and abroad in the state.

The talents and abilities which mark Mr. Rinaker for a useful and a successful public career have not been lost to his fellow-citizens but have served more fittingly to qualify their possessor for the duties and activities of professional and social life. Mr. Rinaker is a citizen of the utmost loyalty and public spirit. He takes an active and a sympathetic interest in the social, intellectual and business affairs of his community, and by his comprehensive way of looking at things, the accuracy of his judgment and the probity of his character he is everywhere accorded a first place as a citizen of his county and state. He is a member of the Commercial Club of Beatrice, the Beatrice Club — a social organization, — and the Golf Club of his city. For many years he has been a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Beatrice and the First Savings Bank, an adjunct institution. He is a Mason, a Knight Templar and a Modern Woodman. For a man with only a moderate fortune, his charities, though discriminating, are large and varied. Without advertising the fact he always contributes to every worthy enterprise or beneficence applying to him for assistance.

In politics, Mr. Rinaker has always affiliated with the Republican party and as a trusted leader in that great party he has been very influential in formulating and directing its policies and activities in both the state and nation.

If to gain and through long years of association to be able to hold the esteem of an entire community; if to so discharge the duties of an advocate and a lawyer as to dignify and ennoble that great and learned profession, if to command through the third of a century the profound respect of the bench and bar of a great state furnish sufficient evidence of worth of character, then the case for Samuel Rinaker is complete. Time may bring additional honors; it may enlarge his field of activities and usefulness, it may broaden his acquaintance; but it cannot augment the esteem, confidence and affection with which he is regarded by those who already know him.

HARRY M. HEPPERLEN, M. D.— No member of the medical profession in Nebraska has shown a greater appreciation of the exactions and responsibilities of his humane calling or has more thoroughly equipped himself for the work of the profession than Dr. Hep-

perlen, whose attainments are of high order and who has gained specially high reputation as a surgeon. He is distinctively one of the leading physicians and surgeons of southeastern Nebraska, has been established in practice at Beatrice since 1898 and his is the distinction of having founded the first hospital in this city. In this connection he manifested not only his professional zeal and loyalty, but also his liberality and progressiveness as a citizen. The hospital which he established constituted the nucleus of the present admirably equipped and conducted Lutheran Hospital, and Dr. Hepperlen continues his effective and valued services as chief of the surgical staff of this admirable institution. The hospital is situated about one mile distant from the center of the city of Beatrice and one block distant from the beautiful city park, which formerly was the Chautauqua assembly grounds of this city. The hospital occupies a modern three-story building, and in its general equipment and appointments it is maintained at the most approved standard, with facilities for the care of eighty patients. In connection with the hospital is conducted a well ordered training school for nurses, and the institution as a whole is a source of pride and satisfaction to the citizens of Gage county, besides standing as a monument to the initiative ability and professional zeal of its founder. As a surgeon Dr. Hepperlen controls a practice that in scope and importance is especially noteworthy, his services being demanded through a wide territory of the middle west,—particularly in Nebraska and Kansas. Many delicate surgical operations, both major and minor, stand to the credit of the Doctor, and in the field of surgery he is frequently called upon as an authority by his professional conferees. He is an enthusiast in the work of his profession, keeps in closest touch with the advances made in medical and surgical science, has a comprehensive and select library of standard medical works and has made valuable contributions to the periodical literature of his profession He is an active member of the American Medical Association and the Nebraska State Medical Society, as well as the American College of Surgeons. As a public-spirited citizen he is found arrayed as a staunch advocate of the principles of the Republican party.

Dr. Harry M. Hepperlen was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1868, and is a son of John and Mary (Michael) Hepperlen, who removed from the old Keystone state to Nebraska in 1880 and established their home in Jefferson county, where the father became a substantial and influential citizen. Dr. Hepperlen acquired his earlier education in the public schools of Jefferson county, this state, and supplemented his training by attending during three winter terms the select school conducted at Beatrice by Professor Blake, an educator of exceptional ability. After having formulated definite plans for his future career Dr. Hepperlen entered Keokuk Medical College, in the city of Keokuk, Iowa, and in this institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1891, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. It has already been intimated in this context that Dr. Hepperlen has spared neither pains nor effort in fortifying himself for his profession, and in assurance of this it may be noted that a few years after receiving his degree he took effective post-graduate work in historic old Jefferson Medical College, in the city of Philadelphia, from which institution he received in 1896 the supplemental degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thereafter, in 1897-8, he took a two years' post-graduate course in the University of Vienna, Austria, where he specialized in surgery, as had he also at Jefferson Medical College.

In 1891, soon after his graduation, Dr. Hepperlen engaged in the practice of his profession in the village of Harbine, Jefferson county, and there he continued his residence and professional headquarters until he went abroad for further study. Upon his return to the United States, in 1899, Dr. Hepperlen established his residence in Beatrice, where he has since maintained his home and been a valued and honored figure in the community life. Here he founded soon after his arrival a small hospital, the same having but six beds as total accommodation for patients, and within the

nine years that the hospital was conducted by the Doctor he brought about its splendid development and increased its accommodations to thirty-six beds. In 1912 the institution was acquired by the Brethren church, under the auspices of which it was conducted until 1914, with Dr. Hepperlen as head of its surgical staff and a valued factor in the general administration of its affairs. In 1914 the hospital, by sale, passed to the control of the Lutheran church, under the auspices of which it has since been conducted.

August 8, 1899, recorded the marriage of Dr. Hepperlen to Miss Rosa B. Warner, and they have four children, namely: Mary Bernetta, Joseph Price, Fanstella May, and Harry Michael, Jr. Mrs. Hepperlen is a member of the Presbyterian church.

REV. FRANZ ALBRECHT. — In a double sense is this honored citizen a faithful and prolific worker in the harvest, for not only is he serving with consecrated zeal as a clergyman of the Mennonite church but he is also actively and successfully identified with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing, as the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the northeast quarter of Section 19, Blakely township.

Mr. Albrecht was born at Lindenau, in Silesia, Prussia, and the date of his nativity was January 10, 1876. He is a son of Henry and Helena (Penner) Albrecht, of whose five children he was the second in order of birth; Henry, the eldest son, is a prosperour farmer of Jefferson county, this state; Helena is the wife of David Jansen, of that county; Abraham is a resident of Inman, Norton county, Kansas; and Jacob died when an infant. The father was born August 20, 1845, and continued his residence in his native land until 1884, when he immigrated with his family to the United States. On the 12th of September of that year he established the family home near Beatrice, and for five years thereafter he was employed as a farm workman. The succeeding nine years found him engaged in farming on rented land and he then purchased a farm near Hoag, in Blakely township. He acquired this property in 1897, made excellent improvements on the same and at the time of his death, in 1909, he was the owner of a valuable landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres. He was a son of Jacob Albrecht, who passed his entire life in Prussia and who was a farmer by vocation. His widow later removed to Russia, and there her death occurred. The mother of Rev. Franz Albrecht was born in Prussia on the 7th of April, 1847, and since the death of her husband she has resided with her son Franz on the old homestead farm. Her parents, Cornelius and Adelgunda (Dau) Penner, passed their entire lives in Germany and her father was a cloth and linen weaver. He whose name introduces this article was a lad of eight years at the time when the family came to America and established a home in Gage county. Here he was reared to adult age under the benignant influences of the farm, the while he made good use of the advantage afforded in both the German and English schools of the locality. In 1902 he entered Bethel College, at Newton, Kansas, and in this institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1905, after the completion of a Bible course and other work of a preparatory order for ordination to the ministry. He became a clergyman of the Mennonite church in 1905, and has since been the able and zealous pastor of the church of this denomination in his home neighborhood, besides which he gives ministerial service to other Mennonite church organizations in the county — a man of strong intellectuality, of much ability as a pulpit speaker, and of utmost zeal in all departments of his service.

Mr. Albrecht has resided on the present homestead farm from the time his father purchased the property, and his heritage from his father's estate included the one hundred and sixty acres to the management of which he gives his effective attention, as one of the progressive and representative farmers and stock-raisers of Blakely township.

On the 5th of November, 1909, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Albrecht to Miss Mary Wiebe, who was born in Prussia and

was a young woman at the time of the family immigration to America, her parents, Herman and Wilhelmina (Hein) Wiebe, having been born and reared in Germany and the mother having passed to the life eternal in 1884. Mr. Wiebe has been a resident of Gage county since 1894 and lives upon his well improved homestead farm, north of the city of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht have two children — Margaret and Dora H.

JOHN S. GOODBAN. — Along manifold lines has this honored pioneer exerted benignant influence during nearly a half century of continuous residence in Gage county, and he is now living virtually retired, his attractive home being in the village of Cortland. He is a man of broad intellectual ken, high ideals, and gracious personality — a citizen who commands the fullest measure of popular confidence and esteem.

Mr. Goodban was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, October 21, 1846, and is a son of William and Margaret (Langley) Goodban. William Goodban was born in Kentshire, England, February 22, 1804, and he continued his residence in his native land until 1840, when he came to America and settled in the state of New York. In 1842 he removed to Erie county, Pennsylvania, where he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred in October, 1861. His first wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Langley, died when comparatively a young woman, four children having been born of their union — Edward, Esther A., Hannah C., and one who died in infancy. Edward died when thirty years of age and both Esther and Hannah likewise are deceased, the former having become the wife of P. J. Mosier, and the latter having been the wife of T. C. Golden. For his second wife William Goodban married Miss Margaret Langley, a sister of his first wife, and she passed to eternal rest when eighty-three years of age. Concerning the children of this marriage the following brief data are available: Margaret became the wife of J. Kellogg and is now deceased; Sarah M. is the widow of C. L. Porr and resides in the city of Burlington, Iowa; William remains on the old homestead farm in Erie county, Pennsylvania; John G., the immediate subject of this review, was the next in order of birth; Mary S. is the wife of S. Henry, of Dunkirk, Ohio; Henry F. is a resident of Ragan, Harlan county, Nebraska; Arthur J. is deceased; and Ninetta E. is the wife of L. Darling, of Chandlers Valley, Pennsylvania.

In the old Keystone state John S. Goodban was reared and educated, his scholastic discipline having included an effective course in the Pennsylvania Normal School at Edinboro. His career as a representative of the pedagogic profession covered a period of nearly fifteen years — 1868-1882 — and he proved a most successful and popular teacher. In 1867 Mr. Goodban numbered himself among the pioneers of Butler county, Iowa, and in that state he continued his service as a teacher, besides following agricultural pursuits, until 1870, when he came to Otoe county, Nebraska In 1872 he established his home in Gage county. Here he continued to teach in the district schools during the winter terms for the ensuing decade, and in the meanwhile he carried forward the improvement of his farm. In Section 14 Highland township, one mile south and one-half mile west of Cortland, he entered a pre-emption claim of one hundred and sixty acres, and here he established his home. He broke the prairie soil and made it available for cultivation, set out forty acres of timber and with the passing years so developed and improved his land as to make it one of the valuable farms of the county. He was specially successful in the raising of Red Polled Angus cattle and Poland-China swine, but did not make stock-raising subordinate to agricultural enterprise. Besides his old homestead he became the owner of other lands, and he continued his active association with farm industry until 1913, since which time he has lived virtually retired in the village of Cortland, where he owns his home property and also business buildings. He is also a stockholder and director of the Bank of Cortland. He has never abated his interest in educational affairs and served a number of

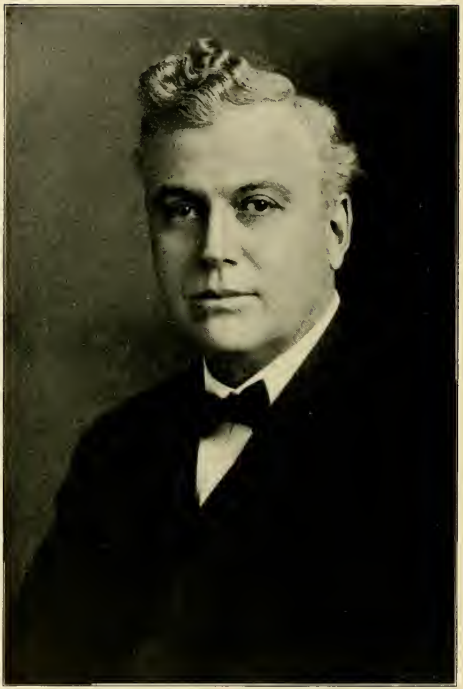
years as a member of the school board of his district while still residing on the farm. Well fortified in his opinions concerning public affairs, he is a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party, and he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, he being treasurer of the church of this denomination at Cortland, in 1917-1918, and having previously served a number of years as a member of the board of trustees.

February 25, 1871, recorded the marriage of Mr. Goodban to Miss Emma J. Mosher, who likewise is a native of Pennsylvania and who was a resident of Iowa at the time of her marriage, her father, the late P. J. Mosher, having been a pioneer of the Hawkeye state. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Goodban: Eva is the widow of J. Yarnall and resides at Cortland; Carrie L. is the wife of F. Hoffman, of Ragan, Harlan county, Nebraska; Nettie E. is the wife of C. P. Jones, of Highland township; Winifred died at the age of two and one-half years; and Arthur J., whose natural mechanical talent has been so developed as to make him an expert machinist, conducts an automobile garage at Cortland, with a well equipped machine and repair shop in connection therewith, besides which he is manager of the Cortland electric-lighting plant and system, he having been one of the organizers of the company which installed this important public utility, and being one of its stockholders.

CLIFFORD P. FALL, M. D.— For a period of virtually thirty years Dr. Fall has been established in the practice of his profession at Beatrice, judicial center of Gage county, and the unequivocal success which he has achieved in his exacting vocation fully attests to his high professional attainments and his facility in the effective application of his technical knowledge. The Doctor has long controlled a substantial and representative general practice, commands inviolable place in popular confidence and esteem and is essentially one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county.

Dr. Fall was born in Boone county, Indiana, on the 9th of February, 1863, and is a son of David and Annie (Kernodle) Fall, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia, both families having been founded in the fair southland many generations ago. The parents of Dr. Fall were children at the time of the immigration of the respective families to Preble county, Ohio, in the pioneer days, and they were reared and educated in the old Buckeye state, their marriage having been solemnized in Union county, Ohio. David Fall became a successful farmer in Boone county, Indiana, and there his death occurred when his son, Clifford P., subject of this review, was but two years of age. Dr. Fall was reared in his native county and there received the advantages of the public schools. Though his youthful experience had to do principally with the basic art of agriculture, he had the ambition that led him to seek a broader sphere of endeavor in choosing his life vocation. He took up the study of medicine and finally went to the city of Chicago, where he was matriculated in the College of Physicians & Surgeons. In this celebrated institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1888 and in April of that year, shortly after receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine, he came to Nebraska and established his permanent residence in the progressive little city of Beatrice, which has continued as the stage of his earnest and successful professional endeavors during the intervening period of thirty years.

Dr. Fall has significantly amplified the scope of his professional work and made a valuable contribution to his home city through his conducting of a well equipped sanitarium and hospital which is known as the Beatrice Sanitarium. This institution was founded by Dr. Fall and Dr. G. A. Harris about the year 1902, and from a modest inception is has been developed into a well ordered hospital of modern equipment and facilities, the same providing for the accommodation of twenty-five patients. Dr. Fall served four years as a member of the Nebraska state board of health, and at the time of the Spanish-American war he served as special contract surgeon at the



CLIFFORD P. FALL, M. D.

United States military cantonment at Chickamauga, for a period of three months. He is an active and valued member of the Gage county Medical Society and the Nebraska State Medical Society, besides holding membership in the American Medical Association. Through recourse to the best standard and periodical literature of his profession and through individual study and research Dr. Fall insistently keeps in touch with the advances made in medical and surgical science, and brings to bear in his practice the results of this consistent application. Though he has subordinated all other interests to the demands of his profession he has been an exponent of loyal and progressive citizenship and gives allegiance to the Democratic party, his predilections never having been such as to lead him to seek or desire political office of any description. He not only gives his attention to his large private practice, but also has the active supervision of the Beatrice Sanitarium, of which he is now sole proprietor. He was one of the organizers of the Beatrice Building & Loan Association, which has developed a large and prosperous business that extends into the various sections of Nebraska, and of this progressive association the Doctor has been president from the time of its organization. In the Masonic fraternity Dr. Fall has completed the circle of each the York and the Scottish Rites, in the latter of which he has received the thirty-second degree. He is past exalted ruler of Beatrice Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

In the year 1885 was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Fall to Miss Annie Kemper, who was born in the state of Wisconsin, and they have two children,— Hazel F., who is the wife of Carl F. Shafer, of Beatrice, and Frederick who remains at the parental home.

FREDERICK H. HOWEY — The business career of Frederick H. Howey has been significantly characterized by courage, self-reliance, and progressiveness, as well as by that dynamic initiative and executive ability that brings normally in its train a full measure of success. His resolute purpose and inviolable integrity have begotten the popular confidence and esteem that are so essential in the furtherance of success in the important line of enterprise along which he has directed his attention and energies, and through the medium of which he has gained secure status as one of the representative figures in the financial circles of Nebraska. During practically his entire business career Mr. Howey has been closely associated with banking enterprise, and there is needed no further voucher for the precedence he has gained, than the statement that he is now president of the First National Bank of Beatrice; president of the First State Savings Bank of the same city; president of the State Bank of Liberty, Gage county; treasurer of the National Accident Insurance Company of Lincoln, Nebraska; and a director of the Farmers' Bank & Trust Company of Fort Collins, Colorado. As a banker Mr. Howey has shown special constructive talent, and through his effective policies and efforts he has furthered the success of every financial enterprise with which he has become associated. As one of the representative business men and progressive and public-spirited citizens of Gage county he merits specific recognition in this publication.

Mr. Howey was born in the vicinity of Columbus, the fair capital city of Ohio, on the 9th of December, 1868, and is a son of Rev. John D. and Lina E. (Bowman) Howey.

Rev. John D. Howey was born November 21, 1831, and was summoned from the stage of life's mortal endeavors on the 29th of December, 1894. After completing a four years' course in Jefferson College, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a two years' course in the Allegheny Theological Seminary he entered the ministry of the Presbyterian church, in which he was ordained in 1858. For the long period of thirty-eight years he continued as an able and faithful clergyman of the Presbyterian fold, and his earnest labors terminated only when death set its seal upon his mortal lips. He was a man of fine intellectuality and labored with all of consecrated zeal and devotion in the vineyard of the Divine Master. He

held pastoral charges in Ohio and Illinois prior to becoming one of the pioneer ministers of the Presbyterian church in Nebraska, in which state he established his residence in 1884. Here he served in various pastorates, and though his death occurred in the city of Lincoln he was at the time maintaining his home at Hastings, this state. He was born and reared in Pennsylvania and was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death, his memory being revered by all who came within the sphere of his kindly and benignant influence. Mrs. Lina E. (Bowman) Howey was born at Neilsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1835, a daughter of John and Nancy Bowman. Her marriage to Rev. John D. Howey was solemnized in the year 1861, and she survived him by nearly a quarter of a century. Mrs. Howey passed the closing period of her life in the home of her daughter Ivie, wife of William C. Black, Jr., of Beatrice, and she passed to eternal rest July 19, 1917, after a lingering illness and when in her eighty-second year. For more than twenty years this gracious gentlewoman had been a resident of Beatrice and was here a member of the First Presbyterian church, in the work of which she took an active and devoted interest. Concerning the children of Rev. and Mrs. John D. Howey the following brief data are available: W. Clement is living retired on a small farm homestead near the city of Lincoln, this state; Loyal B. is president of the City National Bank of Lincoln; Frederick H., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Clyde G. is an osteopathic physician and is engaged in the successful practice of his profession in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Miss Marie T. has held responsible clerical positions in connection with the banking business for a long term of years, was for some time in the employ of Hon. William Jennings Bryan, and she now resides in the city of Los Angeles, California; Ivie B. is the wife of William C. Black, Jr., and they maintain their home at Beatrice.

Frederick H. Howey acquired his early education in the public schools and after the removal of the family to Nebraska, when he was about sixteen years of age, he continued his studies in the schools of the cities of Lincoln and Fairmont, where his father held pastoral charges. Mr. Howey early began to depend upon his own resources and he has been in the truest sense the artificer of his own fortunes as one of the world's productive workers. At the age of eighteen years he left the gracious environment of the parental home and found employment as a clerk in a dry-goods establishment in the city of Lincoln. His judgment and ambition prompted him to further reinforce himself by taking a course in bookkeeping and accounting, and for this purpose he pursued his studies in a business college at Lincoln. Soon afterward he found employment as bookkeeper in the State National Bank of Lincoln, and after four years of effective service with this institution he was elected cashier of the Bank of Marquette, in the village of Marquette, Hamilton county, where he remained one year — in the later '80s. For a short time thereafter he held a position in the American Exchange National Bank in Lincoln, and he then purchased an interest in and assumed the position of cashier of the First National Bank at Humphrey, Platte county, at the time the same was organized as successor of the Citizens' State Bank. He played a large part in the upbuilding of the substantial business of this institution and continued the incumbent of the office of cashier until 1897, when he resigned his position and came to Beatrice, where he was elected vice-president of the First National Bank. This office he retained until 1911, since which time he has been president of the institution, his administration in each of these offices having been potent in furthering the advancement of this representative institution, which bases its operations on a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, the while its surplus fund and undivided profits have now attained to the significant aggregate of more than sixty thousand dollars. Since 1909 Mr. Howey has served also as president of the First State Savings Bank of Beatrice, which has a capital stock of twelve thousand five hundred dollars, sur-

plus and undivided profits of six thousand dollars and deposits to the amount of more than one hundred thousand dollars. Under his careful and progressive régime the First National Bank has made a wonderful advancement in the volume of its business, and its deposits are now in excess of one million dollars, the bank having been founded in 1877, and being one of the leading financial institutions of southeastern Nebraska. It has previously been noted that Mr. Howey is president also of the State Bank of Liberty, and it may further be stated that this institution has a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars and deposits of approximately three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In 1907 Mr. Howey became associated with his brother Loyal B. in the organization and incorporation of the National Accident Insurance Company, at Lincoln, and the same has operations based on a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, he being treasurer of the company and his brother the president. Unequivocal success has attended the underwriting business of this corporation, and in extending health and accident indemnity the company now has in force policies representing about four million dollars. Its thorough reliability and able executive control have caused this company to have a remarkable growth within a decade, and it now has an extensive and representative list of patrons throughout the state of Nebraska, as well as a good business in other states of this section of the Union.

As a broad-gauged and liberal citizen Mr. Howey has always shown vital interest in community affairs, and he has served three years as a member of the Beatrice school board. He has been active in the local councils of the Republican party, as attested by the fact that he has served since 1916 as treasurer of the Gage county Republican committee. He is, however, essentially a business man and has not deviated from his course to become an aspirant for public office of any kind. He and his wife are active members of the First Presbyterian church of Beatrice and he is affiliated with the local organizations of the Masonic fraternity, including Mount Herman Commandery of Knights Templars, as is he also with Beatrice Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

In 1894 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Howey to Miss Eva Tamblyn, who was born at Mason City, Illinois, and who was reared at Altona, Knox county, Illinois, in which state she was graduated in the Musical Conservatory of Knox College, at Galesburg. A pianist of exceptional ability, she was a successful teacher of music prior to her marriage, and she is a leader in church work and the literary and musical circles of Beatrice, where she is a popular factor in the representative social activities of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Howey have three children: Earle T., who was born in 1896, was a member of the class of 1920 in the University of Nebraska, where also he is affiliated with the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, but in December, 1917, he enlisted in the regular army of the United States, for service in the great European war; Katharyn, who was born in the year 1897, is a member of the class of 1919 in the University of Nebraska, where she holds membership in the Delta Gama sorority; and Walden H., born in 1900, is a member of the class of 1919 in the Beatrice high school.

SOLOMON HARPSTER was one of the strong and worthy pioneers who came to Nebraska in the year that marked the admission of the territory to statehood, the first year of his residence within the borders of the new commonwealth having been passed in Richardson county, and his home having been established in Gage county in 1868. He contributed to the civic and industrial development and progress of the county, represented the best in communal life and spirit and bore with fortitude and unwavering faith and confidence the hardships and trials of frontier life. He gained inviolable place in popular confidence and good will and was long and familiarly known in Gage county as "Uncle Sol Harpster." This sterling pioneer, whose death occurred in 1894, is consistently given a tribute of honor in this publication.

MR. AND MRS. SOLOMON HARPSTER

Solomon Harpster was born in the state of Pennsylvania and was seventy years and twelve days of age at the time of his death. He became a resident of Ohio when about nine years of age, remained in the old Buckeye state until 1867, when he came with his family to the newly created state of Nebraska and, as previously noted, established himself in Richardson county, whence he came to Gage county about one year later. In this county he secured a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land, in Sicily township. It is interesting to record that this land, to which he received a deed from the government, has never passed from the possession of the family, by members of which it is still held. Mr. Harpster reclaimed his land and developed the same into one of the valuable farm properties of the county. In Ohio his health had been considerably impaired, but he found the climate and vital influences of Nebraska so invigorating that he became a man of robust health. He labored with characteristic zeal and ability in furthering the development of his farm and in aiding the general advancement of the county along civic and material lines. He lived in this section of Nebraska during the early pioneer days in which hardships and privations drew men together in strong ties of friendship and helpfulness, and his genial personality gained to him the sobriquet of Uncle Sol, by which he was known to all the early settlers.

Mr. Harpster superintended the building of the bridge across the Blue river at Blue Springs and also the erection of the first county jail, at Beatrice. He was careful and upright in all of the relations of life, had a fine sense of personal stewardship and was never known to use profane language, tobacco or intoxicating liquors. Both he and his wife were lifelong and zealous members of the Evangelical church. In coming to Gage county he transported his family and effects with wagon and ox team, and the oxen he thereafter utilized in breaking his land and otherwise carrying forward the development of his farm.

In Ohio was solemnized, June 16, 1850, the marriage of Mr. Harpster to Miss Judith Beck, and they passed the closing years of their lives in their pleasant home in the village of Blue Springs, his death having occurred in December, 1894, and his widow having entered into eternal rest in March, 1911, when seventy-seven years of age. They became the parents of four children: Malissa is the widow of Samuel Mowry, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume; Alonzo is a boilermaker by trade and is employed in the shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad at Wymore, this county; George resides in the city of Lincoln and is a conductor in the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; and Miss Sue remains at the old home of her parents at Blue Springs.

JOHN L. ANDERSON. — Definite efficiency has characterized the service of Mr. Anderson in the responsible office of cashier of the Union State Bank, of Beatrice, and his administration has done much to conserve the success that has marked the history of this important and representative financial institution of Gage county, the while his personality and civic loyalty have gained to him inviolable place in popular confidence and esteem.

Mr. Anderson was born in Cook county, Illinois, on the 31st of August, 1875, and is a son of John P. and Carrie (Berendutt) Anderson, the former of whom was born in Scotland and the latter in France, their marriage having been solemnized in the state of Illinois. John P. Anderson received in his youth good educational advantages, including a course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College in the city of Chicago, and he became a business man of marked circumspection and progressiveness, so that success came to him as a natural prerogative. In Illinois he was engaged in the furniture business but about the year 1885 he came to Nebraska and established the family home in the city of Omaha. There he conducted for two and one-half years two well ordered retail groceries, and in 1888 he came to Gage county and engaged in

the same line of mercantile enterprise at Beatrice. He built up a large and representative business and continued as one of the leading merchants and most highly honored citizens of Beatrice until his death, when about fifty-five years of age, his widow being still a resident of this city. Of their two children the subject of this review is the elder, and Sylvia is the wife of Charles D. Loper, secretary of the wholesale woolen house of Mullin & Company, of Chicago. John P. Anderson was liberal and public-spirited in his civic attitude, gave his allegiance to the Republican party, and was an earnest communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church, as is also his widow.

John L. Anderson, the immediate subject of this sketch, acquired his early education principally in the public schools of the cities of Omaha and Beatrice, and at the age of sixteen years he assumed a clerical position in the First National Bank of Beatrice. In this institution he won promotion to the position of assistant cashier, of which he continued the incumbent several years. On the 4th of July, 1912, he purchased stock in the Union State Bank of Beatrice, of which he has since continued to serve as cashier and to the upbuilding of which he has contributed in large measure. The bank was founded in 1902, bases its operations on a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, has surplus and undivided profits of six thousand dollars, and its deposits now aggregate more than eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars. When he took the position of cashier the institution had deposits of only one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the remarkable increase since that time gives a measure of testimony to his efficiency of administration and to his unqualified personal popularity.

As a broad-minded and progressive citizen Mr. Anderson manifests lively interest in all things touching the communal welfare and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He is prominently identified with the time-honored Masonic fraternity, in which his affiliations are here briefly noted: Beatrice Lodge, No. 19, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, of which he is past master; Livingston Chapter, No. 10, Royal Arch Masons, of which he is past high priest; Rabona Council, Royal & Select Masters, in which he has passed various official chairs; and Mount Herman Commandery, No. 7, Knights Templars, of which he is past eminent commander. He is one of the charter members of the Beatrice lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and served for a long period as treasurer of the same. Both he and his wife are zealous communicants of Christ church, Protestant Episcopal, and he has been a member of the vestry of this parish since 1915.

In the year 1907 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Anderson to Miss Charlotte P. Smith, who was born and reared in Nebraska and whose father, Samuel C. Smith, has been long and prominently identified with the banking business in Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have one son, Peter, who was born on the 19th of November, 1909. Mrs. Anderson, a woman of culture and most gracious personality, is a leader in church, musical, and social activities in her home city. She was afforded the advantages of St. Gabriel's School at Peekskill, New York, and later pursued a course in voice culture under the preceptorship of Mrs. Morris, a leading teacher of music in the city of New York. She is the popular chatelaine of one of the attractive and hospitable homes of the city of Beatrice.

HENRY J. WIEBE. — This representative agriculturist and stock-grower of Blakely township has been a resident of Gage county for forty years. He was about sixteen years of age when he came with his widowed mother and younger brother to Beatrice and by making good use of the advantages here offered he has made his way forward to the goal of independence and marked prosperity. He is the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and sixty acres being in Section 20 and the remaining sixty acres in Section 17, Blakely township. With the effective coöperation of his sons Mr. Wiebe is now identified with the farming and stock-raising operations on an

aggregate of four hundred and sixty acres, and since 1916 he has given special attention to the breeding and feeding of thoroughbred short-horn cattle.

Mr. Wiebe was born in Prussia, Germany, on the 28th of February, 1863, and is a son of Jacob and Emeline (Penner) Wiebe, his father having been a prosperous farmer in Prussia at the time of his death. The subject of this review acquired his early education in the excellent schools of his fatherland and on the 18th of August, 1878, in company with his widowed mother, his younger brother and his one sister, he set sail for the United States. Disembarking in the port of New York city, the family came forthwith to Nebraska and settled at Beatrice. In this locality the two sons found employment at farm work, and concerning the younger son, Jacob W., individual mention is made on other pages, the daughter, Anna, being now the wife of W. A. Penner, of Beatrice, and the devoted mother having here continued to reside until her health became impaired and she was moved to visit her old home in Germany. In June, 1883, she returned to Germany, and there her death occurred in the following year, when she was nearly fifty years of age. This revered pioneer woman was a devoted Mennonite in religious faith and assisted in the organizing of the first church of this denomination in Gage county.

After the family home had been established in Gage county, Henry J. Wiebe attended the public schools of Beatrice for six months, at the time when Hugh J. Dobbs was the superintendent, and as a student both here and in his native land he gave special attention to botany and chemistry. His recompense for his services during the first year of his residence in Gage county was only fifty dollars, and he continued his activities as a farm employe for seven years, during the last of which he received wages of one hundred and eighty dollars. Thereafter he was associated with his brother in farming on rented land for one year, and in 1886 he purchased his present homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The place was improved with a good house but with the passing years he has made further improvements that mark the farm as a model according to twentieth century standards. In 1907 he erected the present large barn on his farm, the same being thirty-six by sixty feet in dimensions. With increasing prosperity he added to the area of his farm and he gives his attention vigorously to diversified agriculture and the raising of superior live stock. In the season of 1917 he had one hundred and fifty acres devoted to corn and eighty-six acres to oats. He is a Republican of independent proclivities and he and his wife are earnest members of the Mennonite church, in which he is a teacher in the Sunday school.

March 10, 1887, was the date of the marriage of Mr. Wiebe to Miss Mary Wiebe, who came with her parents from Prussia to America in 1876. Her father, John G. Wiebe, became a successful lumber dealer at Beatrice, and of him mention is made on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Wiebe have eight children, the two elder sons, Gerhard R. and Henry P., being progressive farmers of this county, and all of the other children remaining at the parental home, namely: Alfred, Rudolph, Arnold, Oscar, Gertrude, and Kate.

CARL SONDEREGGER. — One of Nebraska's sterling pioneer citizens who has here had the prescience and energy to make the most of the opportunities offered in connection with civic and material development and progress, Mr. Sonderegger has achieved large and worthy success through his association with agricultural industry and later as an aggressive exponent of the nursery business. His original dwelling in Jefferson county was a "dugout" of the most primitive pioneer type, the same being established on the embryonic farm which figured as the stage of his vigorous activities in the early days. In evidence of his ability and worthy achievement stands his now extensive and well ordered nursery and seed industry, high-grade fruit and ornamental trees, shrubbery, seeds of all kinds, etc., being now shipped from his well equipped nursery plant into the most diverse sections of the Union, the while the little farm dugout

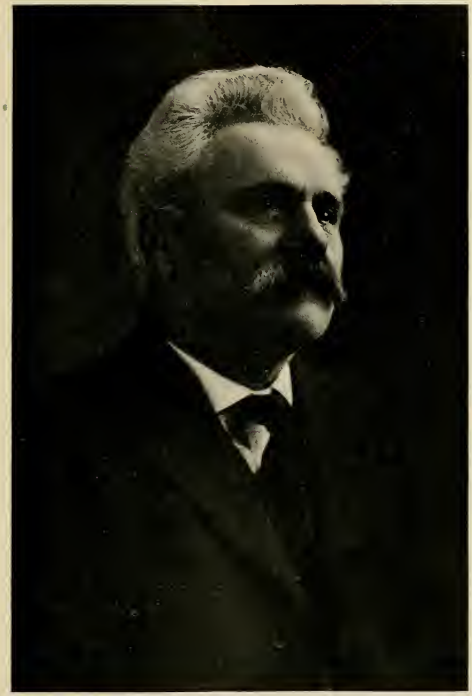
pales into retrospective obscurity when it is recognized that the home of the Sonderegger family in the city of Beatrice is conceded to be one of the finest residence properties in the county, the building being a commodious structure of modern architectural design and most attractive appointments. Mr. Sonderegger has proved himself one of the world's constructive workers and in the furtherance of his own prosperity has aided also in the civic and material development and progress of the county and state of his adoption. As one of the honored and representative citizens and business men of Gage county he is especially entitled to recognition in this history.

Carl Sonderegger was born in the fair little republic of Switzerland, on the 31st of January, 1856, and is one of the eight surviving children of Conrad and Lena (Hohl) Sonderegger, both of whom passed their entire lives in Switzerland. Of the children only two came to America,— Carl, subject of this review, and Arthur, who is now a representative civil engineer residing at Los Angeles, California. The father was identified with farm industry in earlier days, but achieved his success principally as a manufacturer, and he accounted well for himself in all of the relations of life, his father, Conrad Sonderegger, likewise having been a farmer and manufacturer in Switzerland. The family has been notable for the sturdiest of physical powers and for incidental longevity, and in this connection it may be noted that not until their final illness were either the parents or the paternal grandparents of Carl Sonderegger known to be sick for even a day. Jacob Hohl, maternal grandfather of Mr. Sonderegger, was a citizen of prominence and influence in Switzerland, where he served as governor of his canton and held for forty years the office of mayor of the city of Heiden.

In his youth Carl Sonderegger received good educational advantages, and, like many another son of Switzerland, he acquired full command of both the German and French languages. As a youth he became associated with his father in the manufacturing of the fine Swiss embroidery, and finally his youthful ambition led him to sever the home ties and come to the United States, where he felt assured of better opportunities for attaining independence and prosperity through his own effort. In 1875 he came to America and in the same year he numbered himself among the pioneers of Jefferson county, Nebraska. He purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land, twenty miles west of Beatrice, and developed the same eventually into one of the valuable farms of this section of the state. There he continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower for a full quarter of a century, and at the present time he owns his admirably equipped nursery farm of one hundred and twenty acres, the soil being specially available for the propagation of high-grade nursery stock and its fertility being perpetuated through proper scientific treatment.

In initiating his nursery industry Mr. Sonderegger began operation on a modest scale, and the first catalogue which he issued contained only four pages. He has brought to bear the best scientific methods and the most scrupulous care in the development and upbuilding of the enterprise, and the business now demands the issuing of large catalogues annually, an average of one hundred thousand of these attractive catalogues being distributed each year. In the year 1900 Mr. Sonderegger established the headquarters of his nursery business in the city of Beatrice, and the industry has in its splendid development contributed much to the industrial and commercial prestige of the city and county. Mr. Sonderegger is imbued with the most vital spirit of civic pride and loyalty and has been specially influential in the development of the attractive system of public parks in Beatrice, where he is now chairman of the municipal board of park commissioners, his political allegiance being given to the Democratic party.

As a matter of commercial expediency Mr. Sonderegger has incorporated his business under the laws of Nebraska and with the title of the Sonderegger Nursery and Seed House. Operations are based on a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, but all of the



Carl Hundeng

stock is held by members of the Sonderegger family, so that it is a close corporation, the subject of this sketch, as may be inferred, being the executive head of the business. He is a member of the directorate of the Union State Bank of Beatrice and also of that of the Bonner Portland Cement Company, of Kansas City, Missouri. He is affiliated with the Beatrice lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and he and his wife are active members of the Christian church in their home city.

In the year 1875 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sonderegger to Miss Babetta Hohl, who likewise was born and reared in Switzerland and who joined him in America within a short time after his immigration to this country. Most gracious have been the relations of the family home circle and in the concluding paragraph of this article are given brief data concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger.

Clara married and resides in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Charles, who is associated with his father in business, married Miss Mabel Jones and they have two children,— Carl and Morris; Lydia is the wife of Charles Hughes, a farmer of Jefferson county, this state, and they have three children,— Clara, Leo and Lucille; Leo, who is now engaged in business in New York city, married Miss Louise Getzentanner and has two children,— Leo and Louise; Frederick, who is associated with his father's nursery business, wedded Miss H. Sonderegger and they have three children,— Frederick, Arnold and Margaret; Ernest has more special connection with the seed department of the Sonderegger nursery: the maiden name of his wife was Helen Loeber and they have no children; Lena is the wife of Ralph Rosezell, who is engaged in the photographic business in Beatrice, and their two children are Richard and Catherine; Arthur, who is connected with the nursery business of his father, wedded Miss Ruth Atwater, and they have one child, Phyllis; Hilda is the wife of Clayton Harris and they reside at Los Angeles, California; and Helen remains at the parental home.

FRANK W. JONES. — The attractive little village of Clatonia claims Mr. Jones as one of its liberal citizens and representative business men. Here he has developed a prosperous enterprise in the handling of lumber and building supplies, and in connection therewith he keeps pace with the modern trend by acting also as agent for the celebrated Overland automobile for this part of the county.

Mr. Jones was born on a farm near the city of Dixon, Illinois, on the 8th of April, 1870, and is a son of George H. and Jane A. (Whitcomb) Jones. He is the eldest in a family of four children and concerning the others the following brief data may consistently be entered: Elva is the wife of James E. McCormack, who is a partner in the business of the subject of this sketch; Cyrus P. is a prosperous farmer in Highland township; and Verna remains with her widowed mother in the pleasant home in the village of Cortland, this county.

George H. Jones was born in the state of Maine, in 1847, and was nine years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, where he was reared and educated and where he continued his residence until 1872, when he came to Nebraska and became one of the pioneers of Gage county. He entered claim to a homestead of eighty acres in Highland township; in 1874 he purchased from the railroad company an adjoining eighty acres, and in 1884 he added another eighty acres to his valuable landed estate. His old homestead place is situated in Section 30, and he owned also the northwest one-half of Section 31 in the same township. He made the best of improvements upon his land and was one of the prominent farmers of the county for many years. For a time he rented his farm and he was engaged in the mercantile business in Cortland, Nebraska, about two years. Finally he retired again from his farm and moved to Cortland, where he remained until his death, in 1909. Mr. Jones was a man of sterling character and marked ability, so that he consistently was called upon to serve as a member of the county board of supervisors — an office in which he made a record

for liberality and progressiveness. He was a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party and was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his widow. Mrs. Jones was born near the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was a resident of Illinois at the time of her marriage. She is one of the loved pioneer women of Gage county and is now about seventy years of age. She still resides at Cortland.

Frank W. Jones was a child of two years at the time of the family removal to Gage county, where he was reared on the home farm and early gained experience in herding cattle on the prairies, besides which he recalls as a part of his experience in the pioneer days the occasional seeing of deer in this section of the state. He was afforded the advantages of the public schools and continued to be associated with his father in farm industry until the removal of his parents to the village of Cortland, where for the ensuing two years he clerked in his father's general store. The next year there found him employed as assistant in a lumber yard, and on the 14th of February, 1893, he removed to Clatonia, where for the following year he had charge of the lumber yard of his uncle, H. H. Jones. He then opened a general merchandise store in the village and for the following eleven years he successfully conducted this business. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Clatonia, and of this office he continued the incumbent until he sold his mercantile business and formed a partnership with James E. McCormack, with whom he has here been associated in the retail lumber trade since that time. He is the owner of his attractive residence in Clatonia and also of other realty in the village. Taking a loyal interest in local affairs, Mr. Jones was the one who prepared the petition that led to the incorporation of the village of Clatonia, and since that time he has served several terms as a member of the municipal council. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

December 21, 1893, recorded the marriage of Mr. Jones to Miss Ella L. Albert, a daughter of Henry Albert, of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work, so that further record concerning the family is not demanded in the present connection. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have but one child, Izetta, who was born July 27, 1896, and who remains at the parental home — a young woman of culture and one who is a popular figure in the social activities of her home community. Miss Jones was for two years a student in the high school of Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, and thereafter she was for two years a student in the high school at University Place. She is now attending Wesleyan University, at University Place, Lancaster county. She taught two terms of school in Grant township and proved herself a successful worker in the pedagogic service.

BENJAMIN F. STEINMEYER, who is one of the progressive and successful exponents of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in his native county and a member of one of the well known and influential pioneer families of this section of Nebraska, was born in Clatonia township, on the 27th of January, 1883, a son of William and Louisa (Schlake) Steinmeyer, of whose ten children the firstborn was John, who died in infancy; Sophia, who was born April 11, 1873, remains with her widowed mother; Ella died in early childhood; Henry, a representative farmer of Clatonia township, was born April 13, 1878; Anna is the wife of Fred Carsten, of Hallan, Lancaster county, her birth having occurred February 5, 1881; Benjamin F., immediate subject of this review, was the next in order of birth; William, who was born April 5, 1885, has the management of the old homestead farm, in Clatonia township; Jennie, who was born Februaray 16, 1887, is the wife of A. P. Kost, of St. Joseph, Missouri; Edwin, who was born February 25, 1890, is a prosperous farmer of Clatonia township, and his twin brother, Albert, died at the age of nineteen years.

The late William Steinmeyer was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, July 9, 1839, a son of John Henry and Elizabeth

WILLIAM STEINMEYER

MRS. WILLIAM STEINMEYER

(Fradiker) Steinmeyer, there having been five other children, — Frederick, Henry, Mary, Ann and Emma. John Henry Steinmeyer immigrated with his family to America in 1857, and after a voyage of eight weeks on a sailing vessel they landed in Baltimore, Maryland. The family home was established in Scioto county, Ohio, where John Henry Steinmeyer continued his residence until the autumn of 1865, when he came with other members of his family to Nebraska Territory. In the following spring he came to Gage county and filed claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Clatonia township, the present thriving village of Clatonia being on the tract which he thus secured prior to the admission of Nebraska to the Union. He reclaimed his pioneer farm to cultivation and he and his wife here passed the remainder of their lives.

William Steinmeyer was reared and educated in his native land and was eighteen years of age at the time of the family immigration to America. Upon coming with his father to Gage county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1866, he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 28, Clatonia township, this place being an integral part of the large and finely improved landed estate which he eventually accumulated and which is still owned by his widow. Of the conditions that here prevailed at the time when Mr. Steinmeyer initiated his pioneer experience the following interesting statements have been written: "The embryonic farm bore little resemblance to its condition in the present day, the plowshare never having passed over it and not a building having been erected for the shelter of man or beast. Mr. Steinmeyer was prepared, however, for this state of things and after finding a temporary home he began to gather together implements for the cultivation of the soil, while he girded himself earnestly and staunchly for the developing of a productive farm from the prairie wilds." Mr. Steinmeyer made the best of improvements upon his original homestead, and the buildings and general attractiveness of the place to-day evidence his industry and good management. On the old homestead he continued to reside until his death, which occurred July 3, 1911, and he was one of the honored pioneer citizens of the county when he was thus called from the stage of life's mortal endeavors. He became the owner of a fine landed estate of one thousand four hundred and sixty acres in Gage county, five hundred acres in Missouri and three hundred and twenty acres in Kansas. His sons utilize the various farms for their productive activities as agriculturalists and stock growers. He was a stalwart Republican in politics was loyal and progressive as a citizen and his ability and popularity gave him marked influence in community affairs. He served two terms as treasurer of Clatonia township and was a charter member of the German Methodist church that was organized by his father in Clatonia township, his widow likewise being an earnest member of this religious body.

January 19, 1870, recorded the marriage of Mr. Steinmeyer to Miss Louisa Schlake, who was born in Prussia, February 12, 1851, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Tieman) Schlake, the former of whom passed his entire life in Germany and who was survived by five children, — Mary Ann, William, Charlotte, Louisa and Caroline. The devoted mother came to America in 1870 and came with her daughter to Gage county, where she died four weeks later. Mrs. Steinmeyer was reared and educated in her native land and was about seventeen years of age when, in 1869, she came to the United States in company with her sister. She remained for a time at Aurora, Illinois, and after a few months came to Gage county, Nebraska, where her marriage was shortly afterward solemnized. After the death of her husband she removed to the village of Clatonia, where she and her eldest daughter have an attractive home, and she still retains ownership of the valuable farm property accumulated by her honored husband. All of her ten children, of whom mention has been made in an earlier paragraph, received good educational advantages, including those of the college at Warrenton, Missouri.

Benjamin F. Steinmeyer, the immediate subject of this review, was reared on the old home farm, and after completing the curriculum of the district schools he was for some time a student in the Central Wesleyan College, at Warrenton, Missouri. He has never found it expedient or a matter of desire to deflect his course from farm industry and he is now successfully carrying on progressive enterprise as an agriculturist and stock-grower in his native township, where he operates a part of the family estate, in Clatonia township. His political support is given to the Republican party and at Beatrice he is affiliated with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, besides which he is a member of Blue Valley Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, at Wilber, Saline county.

On the 2d of June, 1915, Mr. Steinmeyer wedded Miss Alice Balderson, who was born at Crete, Saline county, October 1, 1890, a daughter of Jacob and Carrie (Schnacker) Balderson, who removed eventually to Wilber, that county, where the father is living retired, Mrs. Balderson being now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeyer have a fine little son, George Benjamin, who was born August 6, 1916.

TAMME R. ZIMMERMAN, a venerable and highly honored citizen who is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, is a man who has proved one of the world's productive workers and one who has merited the distinctive prosperity that is his in the gracious evening of his long and useful life. He is the owner of two thousand acres of land in Texas, and in Nebraska he owns sixteen hundred and eighty acres in Gage county, four hundred and eighty in Red Willow county, three hundred and twenty in Cherry county, and one hundred and sixty in Franklin county. In his extensive operations as a farmer and ranchman he made a specialty of raising the best type of live stock, and his energy and good judgment made his success assured and cumulative.

Mr. Zimmerman was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, October 14, 1834, and is a son of Frank and Anna (Dorn) Zimmerman, of whose family of two sons and three daughters only the two sons are now living, Claus being a resident of the village of Pickrell, this county, and having celebrated in 1918 his eighty-seventh birthday anniversary. The parents passed their entire lives in Germany.

The subject of this review was but two years old at the time of his mother's death and only six years of age when his father died. Thus he was early thrown on his own resources, and how effectively he has lived up to the responsibilities devolving upon him is shown in the unqualified success which he has won through his own efforts. As a boy and youth in his native land he was able to attend school only one month each year, and there he continued to be employed at farm work until 1856, when he came to America and found employment on a farm in Menard county, Illinois. In 1859 he there took unto himself a wife, and in the following year he and his young wife came to Nebraska Territory and numbered themselves among the early pioneer settlers of Richardson county. In Franklin precinct of that county he purchased forty acres of raw prairie land, upon which he built a primitive log house, and there he continued his farming activities two years. In 1862 he came to Gage county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Logan township. Here he began vigorously the agricultural and live-stock enterprise that brought to him ever-increasing success with the passing years, and as his financial resources were augmented he added gradually to his landed estate, while eventually he accumulated valuable property in other counties of Nebraska, as well as his extensive land holdings in Texas. He continued as one of the representative exponents of farm enterprise in Logan township until 1904, since which time he has lived in well earned retirement, with a comfortable and attractive home in Beatrice.

In 1859 Mr. Zimmerman married Miss Catherine Miller, who was born in Germany and who came with her father to the United States in 1855, the family home being established in Illinois. Mrs. Zimmerman passed to the life eternal on the 11th of July, 1910, a

devout communicant of the German Lutheran church. Of this union were born eight children: Mrs. Anna Dorn lives in Franklin county; Mrs. Abbie Meints is a resident of Logan township, Gage county; Mrs. Fannie Baughman lives near Pickrell, this county; Eilert is living on his father's old homestead farm, in Logan township; Rachel and Renken are deceased; Mrs. Tillie Frerichs resides in Logan township; and Mrs. Mary Huttenmaier lives on a farm five miles east of Beatrice.

On the 6th of December, 1911, Mr. Zimmerman wedded Mrs. Julia (Matthews) Ayers, widow of Jonathan Ayers. By her first marriage Mrs. Zimmerman has three children: William is a resident of Dodge City, Kansas, where he holds the position of inspector in the service of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad; Harry is superintendent of the plant of the great packing house of Swift & Company in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota; and Mrs. Effie Grace resides at Downs, Osborne county, Kansas. Mrs. Zimmerman was born in Warren county, Pennsylvania, and was five years old when her parents, Ansel and Barbara (Dias) Matthews, became pioneer settlers in Iowa, her father having been a native of Massachusetts and her mother of Indiana. After her marriage to Jonathan Ayers, Mrs. Zimmerman came with her husband to Gage county and made settlement on the Otoe Indian reservation, in 1878, their elder son having been the first white child born on this reservation. Mr. Zimmerman is a Democrat in politics and is a member of the Lutheran church, Mrs. Zimmerman being a member of the Methodist church.

REV. LEONARD POEVERLEIN, the honored pastor of the parish of St. John's German Lutheran church in the city of Beatrice, has retained this incumbency since the 13th of December, 1883, and is one of the revered pioneer clergymen of the Lutheran faith in this section of the state — the devoted shepherd of his flock, the friend of all humanity, and the earnest vicar of the Divine Master whom he has served with all of consecrated zeal.

Mr. Poeverlein was born in the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, December 25, 1848, a son of George and Maria (Fakelmeier) Poeverlein, who passed their entire lives in that part of the German empire. In his native land Mr. Poeverlein was given excellent educational advantages in his youth and in preparation for the responsible work of the ministry he completed a most thorough academic and theological education in the Lutheran seminary at Neuen Dettelsau, Germany, his ordination to the ministry having occurred in 1873. Prompted by faith that in America he would find a field for effective service in his chosen calling, Mr. Poeverlein came to this country in the autumn of 1873, arriving in New York city on the 25th of September, and a few weeks later continuing his westward journey to Dubuque, Iowa. Soon afterward he became pastor of a small church organization at Iowa City, where he remained until the spring of 1874, when he came to Nebraska and, on the 18th of April, entered upon pastoral duties in Nemaha county. One year later he went to Rockport, Missouri, where he held a pastoral charge until December 13, 1883, since which time he has been pastor of St. John's church in the city of Beatrice. Under his faithful pastoral and executive direction this parish has prospered both spiritually and temporally, and the congregation now includes fifty families or more, with a roll of one hundred and fifty communicants. Mr. Poeverlein has been earnest not only in his church activities but also as a loyal and public-spirited citizen interested in furthering the communal welfare along all lines, and he has the high esteem of the people among whom he has so long lived and labored.

In 1876 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Poeverlein to Miss Louisa Hemperer, who was born and reared in Clayton county, Iowa, and of the four children of this union, the firstborn, Charles, died at the age of seventeen months; Matilda, who remains at the parental home, was graduated in the Beatrice high school, and is now a popular teacher in the public schools of her home city; Heade, likewise a graduate of the Beatrice

high school, is now an efficient teacher in the public schools at Columbus, Platte county; and Freda, who remains with her parents, was graduated in the local high school and also the Beatrice Business College.

ALFRED HAZLETT. — Judge Hazlett was born and reared in Indiana county, Pennsylvania. To the country public schools of his native commonwealth he is indebted for his preliminary educational discipline, which was supplemented by a course of higher studies in Jefferson College, at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania. In preparing himself for his chosen profession, he prosecuted his studies under the tutorship of former United States Senator Edgar Cowan, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and in June, 1871, he was admitted to the bar of his native state.

In the fall of 1871, having just arrived at the age of his majority, with all of his vital and youthful ambition, he came to Nebraska, and established his residence in Beatrice, where he has since continuously resided.

In the year 1876, at Omaha, Nebraska, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Hazlett to Miss Sibbie Cotton. They have no living children. Those of the early pioneers now living, and who knew him from the time of his location in Nebraska, were impressed with his tall, manly, dignified figure, and pronounced him the man that he was subsequently found to be. He was strong in mind and still at his present age is maintaining a fine, shapely physique. Of Scotch-Irish descent he was born strong for decision, judgment, and with pronounced self-independence. During all of his life he has had a dislike for the affected or pretentious, and despised hypocrisy, deceit, and dishonesty. Perhaps, on account of this one permanent feature in his character, he has always refrained from entering into what he has termed the tainted cesspool of politics, although his friends many times have urged and beseeched him to run not only for state, but for national office.

Within a period of some forty years of his professional activity, in Gage county, Judge Hazlett won, and still maintains, for himself a reputation for being one of the strongest, and most resourceful trial lawyers in southeastern Nebraska. No member of the Gage county bar has participated in so many contested cases, both of a civil and criminal nature as he, and with so great a success. His whole aim in his work was not so much for the money he could obtain from his clients but to win their cases. His judgment of men is recognized by all, and this attribute alone has never failed him in selecting the jury, and in questioning the witness. The make-up of his machinery is grand, in this: He is honest; he is keen, with a bright mind stored with legal lore; in appearance he is somewhat austere — and yet no one is more gentle in spirit — and retiring; he stands as one of our central figures; he has a liberal education, and is an able advocate. Those who have seen him in our different courts, in important cases, and have heard him address a jury, say that for forensic eloquence and convincing argument few, if any, surpass him. He is indeed a strong man, by reason of his force of character and his ability as a lawyer, and he has been and is a potent factor in the affairs of men. In all of his active professional life it is to be said that he is possessed only of a modest estate in worldly goods, and this fact is a genuine testimonial to his honesty and self-sacrifice. He has often said that there is no grander type of manhood on earth than an able, cultured, honest lawyer.

MRS. SOPHIA H. DOLE. — More than casual distinction attaches to the personality and record of this venerable and revered pioneer woman, for not only has she been a resident of Nebraska since the territorial period of its history and endured her share of the hardships and vicissitudes that marked the early stages of development and progress in this now favored commonwealth, but it has also been within her province to found and upbuild in her home city of Beatrice a most prosperous and representative business enterprise — that conducted under the corporate title of the Dole Floral Company. Though this gracious gentlewoman celebrated in 1917,

the eighty-first anniversary of her birth, she still takes vital and earnest interest in the world's work and fortunes, and incidental to the activities of preparation for the nation's participation in the stupendous war in Europe she has been found busily applying herself in skillful knitting of garments and supplies for the Red Cross service and otherwise "doing her bit" to exemplify the ardent patriotism of American womanhood.

Mrs. Dole was born in the state of New York, on the 6th of October, 1836, and is a daughter of P. J. and Mary (Derbyshire) Hooker, who were pioneer settlers of Seward county, Nebraska, and whose names merit enduring place on the roster of those who aided in the civic and industrial development of the territory and state. Mrs. Dole was reared and educated in her native state and after two of her brothers had returned home after valiant service as soldiers of the Union in the Civil war, the entire family came to the Territory of Nebraska, in 1866, settlement being made in Seward county, the father, two sons, and two daughters taking homesteads. The comparative isolation and the primitive conditions that marked the life of Mrs. Dole during the pioneer period of her residence in Nebraska, could not in the least curb her intellectual activity or her ambitions, and she has grown in mental stature with the passing years, has shown abiding human sympathy and tolerance and has manifested her stewardship in kindly words and kindly deeds. Mrs. Dole has been a member of the Congregational church since she was fourteen years of age, and has exemplified her Christian faith in her daily life. Her marriage to J. G. Dole was solemnized in the year 1869, and her husband devoted the major part of his active career to brick manufacturing, he having been a resident of Beatrice at the time of his death, April 19, 1903.

Mrs. Dole has maintained her home at Beatrice, judicial center of Gage county, since 1889, and in establishing and developing the now extensive business of the Dole Floral Company she has demonstrated not only her executive ability and mature judgment, but also exemplified her desire to provide for humanity the gracious natural products that make for beauty and good cheer. Of this company specific mention is made on other pages. In her venerable years she is sustained and comforted by the filial devotion of her five children, concerning whom the following brief data are available: Edward W. is engaged in farming and is the subject of an individual record on other pages of this volume; Walter A., who was long and actively associated with the Dole Floral Company, has sold his property interests at Beatrice and is at the time of this writing, in the winter of 1917, making provisions to establish his home in the state of Georgia; Anna D. is the wife of George M. Johnston, who is manager of the Dole Floral Company, and who is individually mentioned on other pages of this publication; Ella S. is the wife of Frederick von Boskirk, who is a successful farmer of Gage county and whose life work is portrayed elsewhere in this volume; and Elbert J. is engaged in the photographic business in the city of Lincoln, this state.

JAMES B. McLAUGHLIN was a gallant young veteran of the Civil war when he made his first visit to Nebraska, in the year that marked the admission of the state to the Union, and in the autumn of the same year he returned to Illinois, where he wedded the gracious young woman who was to prove his devoted companion and helpmate during the remainder of his long and useful life and who is still living. In the spring of 1868 they settled in Sherman township. James Brady McLaughlin was a man of sterling character and high ideals, and he bore his full share of the burdens and responsibilities incidental to the march of progress in a pioneer locality, as proved by his civic loyalty and influence during the many years of his residence in Gage county and by the success which attended his activities as an exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry. He was one of the honored and venerable pioneer citizens of Rockford township at the time of his death, which occurred September 12, 1914, and it is fitting

that in this history be entered a tribute to his memory.

Mr. McLaughlin was born at McKeysport, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of January, 1841, and was a son of David and Hannah (Brady) McLaughlin, both natives of Westmoreland county, that state. The paternal grandfather of the subject of this memoir was John McLaughlin, who came from Scotland to America when he was a youth of sixteen years and who passed the residue of his life in Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather was a cousin of Samuel Brady, who achieved historic reputation as an Indian hunter. For fully a quarter of a century David McLaughlin served as a pilot on boats plying the Ohio river, and in 1857 he removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Rock Island county, Illinois, where he became a prosperous farmer and where he died in 1870, at the age of fifty-seven years, his widow having survived him by a number of years. They became the parents of eight sons and one daughter and all save one, the daughter, are deceased.

James B. McLaughlin gained his youthful education in the schools of the old Keystone state and was sixteen years old at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where he supplemented his education by attending school during several winter terms, when his services were not in requisition in connection with the work of the home farm. Mr. McLaughlin was twenty years of age at the outbreak of the Civil war and in 1862 he enlisted, for a three months' term, as a private in Company F, Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was assigned to guard duty over the great number of Confederate prisoners held at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and in the atuumn of 1862, he was an escort of such of these prisoners as were taken to Vicksburg, Mississippi, for exchange. He continued in service three months after the expiration of his term of enlistment and then received his honorable discharge, at Camp Douglas. In 1865 he again enlisted, for the duration of the war, and after being mustered in he was sent to New Orleans, whence he was transferred to Mobile. Finally he was assigned to guard duty at Montgomery, Alabama, where he was taken ill with fever and confined in a hospital two months. He was finally discharged, on account of physical disability, and he arrived at his home in Illinois in the autumn of 1865. There he remained until 1867, when he came to Nebraska, and after a tour of investigation he decided to establish his residence in Gage county. In Section 1, Sherman township, he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and also made entry on an additional two hundred acres in the same township. He then returned to Illinois, and in March, 1868, he there wedded Miss Phoebe King, who was born in New York city, on the 30th of August, 1843. Her father was an expert in cotton manufacturing and as such was employed in various important cotton mills in the eastern states. Mrs. McLaughlin is a daughter of James and Charlotte (Allen) King, who were natives of Manchester, England, where the father was overseer in a large cotton factory until 1840, when he came with his wife and two children to the United States, Mrs. McLaughlin having been the sixth of the ten children born. Two of her brothers are deceased and three of her sisters are living in 1918. She received good advantages and developed her marked musical talent under most favorable auspices. At the age of twenty-one years she went to Illinois and engaged in the teaching of music, which she there continued until her marriage. It may well be understood that her musical talent came in for marked appreciation in the pioneer community after she came with her husband to Gage county, and both became zealous in church work, as members of the Methodist Episcopal church, as well as popular factors in the representative social activities of the county. In pioneer reminiscence Mrs. McLaughlin states that in early days she and her husband attended church services in the old Dobbs school house, where they also served in the sessions of the Sunday school. On many an occasion Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin were dinner guests in the home of

James B. McLaughlin and Family

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Dobbs, and she states that no family in Gage county has been more benignant in influence than the Dobbs family, both in the pioneer days and in later generations, her kindly mark of appreciation being one that will be specially appreciated by the editor of this history of the county. In the early days Mrs. McLaughlin often rode home on horseback after having visited at the residence of "Father and Mother Dobbs," and frequently one of their young sons would be her escort.

Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin remained on their farm in Sherman township until 1881, when they sold the property, with the intention of removing to California. After a visit to the old home in Illinois, however, they decided to return to Gage county, and here Mr. McLaughlin purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on which he passed the remainder of his life and on which his widow still maintains her home, near the village of Rockford. He made excellent improvements on the place and it is one of the attractive rural homes of Rockford township. No children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin but they adopted and reared a boy and girl, the latter of whom is deceased. The home of Mrs. McLaughlin is endeared to her by the hallowed memories of the past, and in the association with friends who are tried and true she is passing the gracious evening of her life in peace and comfort, loved by all who have come under her gentle influence.

In politics Mr. McLaughlin was a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Republican party, he was actively affiliated with Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, at Beatrice, and was also a member of the Masonic fraternity. His life was guided and governed by the highest princpiles of integrity and honor, and naught better than this can be said of any man.

CHARLES R. HITE, president and general manager of the Blue Valley Mercantile Company, of Beatrice, has the securest of status as one of the representative business men and progressive citizens of the fine metropolis and judicial center of Gage county. He was born at Marion, Iowa, February 2, 1862, and is a son of Eli and Elizabeth (Runner) Hite, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of West Virginia, their marriage having been solemnized in Iowa, where the parents of Mrs. Hite established a home in the early '50s. Eli Hite was reared and educated in Ohio and became a pioneer settler near Marion, Linn county, Iowa, where he owned land and reclaimed a good farm. Later he was thirty years engaged in the express and transfer business at Shenandoah, Page county, Iowa, where he died when about seventy-seven years of age and where his widow still resides, the subject of this review being the eldest of the three children; Addie became the wife of Marshall Morgan, who is now deceased, and she maintains her home in the city of Beatrice, Nebraska; and Frances is the wife of Michael Gauss, who is engaged in the drug business at Sheridan, Iowa. Eli Hite was a Democrat in politics and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his venerable widow. His father, John Hite, passed his entire life in Ohio, where the family was founded in an early day, and he was a farmer by vocation. John Runner, maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a pioneer in Iowa, where both he and his wife died.

In the public schools of Shenandoah, Iowa, C. R. Hite continued his studies until he had attained to the age of fifteen years, and thereafter he served a three years' apprenticeship to the baker's trade, at Shenandoah. In the same town he then clerked five years in the grocery department of a general store, and in 1887, as an ambitious young man of twenty-five years, he came to Nebraska and settled at Giltner, Hamilton county, where he was employed three years in a general merchandise establishment. He then became associated with James Sherard in purchasing the store and business, and Mr. Hite continued as a member of the firm for the ensuing three years. For several years thereafter he was a successful traveling salesman for the wholesale grocery house of Hargreves Broth-

ers, of Lincoln. Upon severing this alliance he assumed a similar position with the wholesale grocery house of Groneweg, Schotgen & Company, of Lincoln, with which concern he was connected in this capacity until 1904. In the meanwhile he had established and maintained his home in Beatrice, and in the year last mentioned he here became associated with three partners in establishing a fruit and vegetable business. Two years later the business was incorporated under the present title of the Blue Valley Mercantile Company, and the scope of operations was extended to include a wholesale grocery and confectionery business, the operations of the company being now based on a capital stock of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and its trade being extended and well established throughout Nebraska and Kansas, so that the concern has contributed much to the commercial precedence of Beatrice, where is maintained the large and well ordered wholesale house. It has already been noted that Mr. Hite is president and general manager of the company; Gilbert L. Griffith is vice-president; and Harry S. Ahlquist is secretary and treasurer. Besides these executive officers the directorate of the company includes also William E. Rife and Joseph Bouske. When the principals in the company established the original enterprise each made an investment of only two thousand dollars, and at the time of incorporation the capital stock was placed at thirteen thousand dollars. No better evidence of the splendid growth of the enterprise can be offered than the statement that the capitalistic investment is now two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and that the annual business averages fully seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, a corps of seven efficient traveling salesmen being retained and the number of employes at headquarters being about fifteen. It is an admirable record of achievement that has been made by Mr. Hite in the business world and his success has been won entirely through his own ability and efforts. He is liberal and public-spirited in his civic attitude, as behooves one who has been thus greatly prospered in business, and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He holds membership in the United Commercial Travelers' Association, is a member of the Congregational church, and his wife holds membership in the Episcopal church.

December 31, 1891, recorded the marriage of Mr. Hite to Miss Jemima Armstrong, who was born in Scotland, and who was a child at the time when her parents came to the United States and settled in Illinois, where her father engaged in farm enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Hite have two daughters, both of whom remain at the parental home and are popular figures in the social life of Beatrice: Ethel received the advantages of the public schools of Beatrice and also completed a four years' course in the Nebraska Agricultural College; the younger daughter, Hazel, has been graduated in the Beatrice high school.

FRANK T. SCHOWENGERDT, M. D., whose character and professional attainments have given him secure vantage-ground as one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county, is established in the general practice of his profession at Cortland, where he has maintained his residence since 1911. He is a valued member of the Gage County Medical Society, and is identified also with the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Schowengerdt was born in Warren county, Missouri, December 2, 1875, and is the younger of the two surviving children of John and Amelia (Schaake) Schowengerdt, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Missouri, in 1846, a member of a sterling pioneer family of that state, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Schowengerdt, having come from Germany to America about the opening of the nineteenth century and having established their home in Missouri, their acquaintanceship having been formed and their marriage solemnized after they had come to the United States. John Schowengerdt, a farmer by vocation, passed his entire life in Missouri, where he died on the 11th of October, 1888. His first wife, mother of the Doctor, was born in Germany, in 1854, and her death occurred

in 1882. For his second wife John Schowengerdt married Emma Niemeyer, who was born in Warren county, Missouri, and of the three children of this union the two survivors still reside in Missouri. Emma, the other surviving child of the first marriage, is the wife of William Dorsett and they reside at Alton, Illinois.

Dr. Schowengerdt passed the period of his childhood and early youth on the home farm and as a lad of thirteen years began working on the farm of his uncle, Frederick Schowengerdt, of Osage county, Missouri. In the meanwhile he had made good use of the advantages of the public schools and in 1894 he entered Central Wesleyan College, at Warrenton, Missouri, in which institution he pursued a general academic course during a period of three years. In 1897 he was matriculated in the Marion Sims Medical College, in the city of St. Louis, which institution is now the medical department of St. Louis University, and in this celebrated institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1902, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He gained most valuable clinical experience by serving eleven months as an interne in the Alexian Brothers' Hospital, St. Louis, and three months in the St. Louis Female Hospital. In 1903 he engaged in the practice of his profession at Morrison, Missouri, whence, three years later, he removed to Brownsville, Texas, in which place he continued in the active practice of medicine until 1911, when he came to Gage county and established his home at Cortland. Here he has built up a substantial and representative practice that attests alike his professional ability and his personal popularity. The Doctor gives unswerving allegiance to the Republican party, is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. When the United States entered the European war, in 1917, Dr. Schowengerdt made application for appointment as medical officer in the Medical Reserve Corps of the army, but physical inability caused his application to be rejected.

July 8, 1903, Dr. Schowengerdt wedded Miss Mary E. Smith, who was born and reared in Osage county, Missouri, a daughter of George and Henrietta Smith. Mr. Smith was born in Germany, came to America when young, and was a loyal soldier of the Union in the Civil war, he having thereafter become one of the prosperous farmers of Osage county, Missouri. Dr. and Mrs. Schowengerdt became the parents of five children — Irene, Waldo, Grace, Gladys, and Frances. Waldo and Gladys died in early childhood and the other children remain at the parental home.

HOMER J. MERRICK.— If a man comes of a good family he ought to be proud of it and he performs an immeasurable duty when he employs the best means to preserve the family record in enduring form, that future generations may receive instruction through principles and influences, personality and careers of the ancestors.

The subject of this biography can trace his ancestry from the same source that gave the world such persons as John Greenleaf Whittier, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Frances Meriam Whitcher. The Merricks are descended from the Welsh Royal family and King Elwood I of England, and the first representative of the family in this country, came over in 1636.

The parents of our subject were Austin and Sylvia (Whitcher) Merrick, natives respectively of Connecticut and Vermont. The paternal grandfather was accidentally killed on the Erie canal while making a trip to western Pennsylvania. His wife was named Alden, and was a direct descendant of John Alden, whom Longfellow made famous in his poem entitled "The Courtship of Miles Standish." The maternal grandparents were Stephen and Esther (Emerson) Whitcher, who were probably uncle and aunt of the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, and Grandmother Whitcher was closely related to that other distinguished author, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Frances Meriam Whitcher, author of the "Widow Bedott

H. J. Merrick

Lucy A Merrick

Papers," was a sister of the mother of Homer J. Merrick, of this review.

Austin Merrick located at Pleasantville, Venango county, Pennsylvania, and was a merchant and farmer who resided there until his death, in 1875, at the age of seventy-five years. He was married three times, the mother of our subject being his second wife. She passed away in Pennsylvania in 1849, at the age of forty years.

Homer J. Merrick was born at Pleasantville, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1846. He was reared on a farm and attended village school until the outbreak of the Civil war. When just past his seventeenth birthday he enlisted, in December, 1863, in Company B, One Hundred and Eleventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, for three years, or during the war. His regiment was detailed to Bridgeport, Alabama, where it arrived in time to join the Atlanta campaign and participate in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and the Siege of Atlanta, and thereafter it was with General Sherman on the historic march from Atlanta to the Sea. Subsequently the command went up through the Carolinas and was present at the Grand Review at Washington, the greatest military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere.

Returning home, Mr. Merrick attended the State Normal School at Edinboro, Pennsylvania, two years, and later was a student in a commercial college at Cleveland, Ohio. In 1869 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 22, Adams township. He purchased a wagon, team of horses and some implements and began farming. His first home was a dug-out in which he lived and kept bachelor's hall the first year. He boarded then with neighbors, breaking prairie for them. He would haul grain to Nebraska City and bring back to Beatrice a load of lumber, the trip requiring five days. As time passed he prospered. In 1875 Mr. Merrick bought land in Section 16, Adams township. This he improved with good buildings, and there he continued his operations as an agriculturist, meeting with the success which always comes as the reward of industry and intelligently directed effort.

On the 21st of December, 1870, Mr. Merrick was united in marriage to Miss Lucy A. Lyons, a native of Kenosha county, Wisconsin. Her parents, John and Almira (Shaw) Lyons, became residents of Gage county in 1857, settling in Adams township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father was a native of Litchfield county, Connecticut, and the mother was born in Dutchess county, New York. The ancestors of Mrs. Merrick were of English descent. Her grandfather, John Lyons, was born in England. On the maternal side is shown a direct descent from Richard Hicks, who came to America from England on the ship "Fortune," in 1621, this being the second vessel to arrive after the "Mayflower." Mr. and Mrs. Merrick became the parents of seven children, as follows: Frank A. and John H. are deceased; Julia, is the wife of Dr. Turner, of Sterling, Nebraska; Dell, is the wife of J. M. Burnham, of Adams township; Olive R. is the wife of R. B. Winter, of Adams township; Homer C. resides in Adams; and Sylvia is deceased.

Mr. Merrick contributed his full share to the agricultural development of Gage county, and until 1907 was engaged in general farming and the raising of Shorthorn cattle, both branches of his business yielding him a substantial income. He made judicious investments in farm lands and is today the owner of thirteen hundred acres. In 1893 his neighbors, recognizing his ability and worth, elected him to represent them in the lower house of the state legislature. He was re-elected, and served two terms, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. Among the many measures which he introduced and which have found place on the statute books of this commonwealth was a bill authorizing the building of the Soldiers' Home at Milford. His community has been benefited by his wise council and he has efficiently filled all of the offices of his township. In 1898 he received an injury which necessitated his

leaving the farm, and he was appointed and served as postmaster of Adams for five years. He was one of the organizers of the First State Bank of Adams, which is now the First National Bank, and he has since helped to shape its policy by serving as a director. He is now vice-president of the institution, of which he was cashier for one year. Mr. Merrick is president of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Adams and was at one time interested in a hardware business. His religious belief coincides with the doctrines of the Methodist church, of which he and his wife are members. In politics Mr. Merrick is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and several of the other Masonic bodies. He maintains pleasant relations with old army comrades by membership in Sargeant Cox Post, No. 100, Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Merrick is an honorable representative of a noble family, and while he has achieved success which places him among the men of affluence in his county and state, he has not been remiss in any duty and enjoys the respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

ROBERT H. STEINMEYER, cashier of the State Bank of Holmesville, of which his father, John H. Steinmeyer, is president, is a member of a prominent and influential Gage county family, concerning which adequate mention is made on other pages of this work. Mr. Steinmeyer was born in Saline county, Nebraska, August 25, 1889, and in his youth he attended the public schools of Clatonia, Gage county, besides having taken a higher course in an academy in the city of Lincoln. His active career as a business man has been marked by his close association with banking enterprise, and he is giving most efficient service as cashier of the State Bank of Holmesville, which bases operations upon a capital stock of ten thousand dollars, and which now has in surplus and undivided profits a fund of more than one hundred thousand dollars, the substantial institution proving an important adjunct to the industrial and commercial facilities of this section of the county. In addition to his executive service at the bank Mr. Steinmeyer has developed a prosperous business in the buying and shipping of live-stock.

In politics Mr. Steinmeyer is found aligned as a loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party and he has served as township clerk, as has he also as a member of the school board of Holmesville. He is an appreciative and popular member of Beatrice Lodge, No. 619, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, of which he is serving, in 1918, as esteemed lecturing knight. His wife holds membership in the Brethren church.

October 15, 1913, recorded the marriage of Mr. Steinmeyer to Miss Mabel Gish, who was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of James W. Gish, a representative farmer of Rockford township. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeyer have one child, Phyllis, who was born in 1917.

JOSEPH C. DELL merits consideration in this history as one of the representative farmers and valued citizens of Rockford township, and also by reason of being a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of the county, where the family home was established when he was a lad of twelve years.

Mr. Dell was born in Owen county, Indiana, October 8, 1863, and is a son of Isaac and Lydia (Summers) Dell, both natives of Ohio, where the former was born March 4, 1834, and the latter on the 5th of August, 1838, their marriage having been solemnized in Indiana. Isaac Dell was an honored pioneer who passed the closing years of his life in Gage county, where he died June 1, 1904, and his widow now resides in Rockford township. They became devout members of the Church of the Brethren, in which he gave earnest service as a minister for many years. Isaac Dell was a son of Peter Dell, who was born in Pennsylvania, of German ancestry, and who removed from that state to Ohio, whence he later went to Indiana, where he resided a number of years. He then returned with his family to Ohio, where he continued

to live until his death, he having been a cabinet-maker by trade. Jacob Summers, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, removed from Ohio to Indiana, in which latter state he passed the remainder of his life, a farmer by vocation. Isaac Dell acquired in his youth the trade of carpenter and he followed the same in Owen county, Indiana, until 1869, when he removed with his family to Harrison county, Iowa, where he became a pioneer contractor and builder. In 1876 he came with his family to Gage county, where he purchased and improved a farm, besides continuing for many years in the active work of his trade, in which connection he erected many buildings of excellent order that still remain as evidences of his skill as a carpenter. He was a man of fine mind and fine character, ever commanding the unqualified respect of his fellow men, and he was one of the honored pioneer citizens of Gage county at the time of his death. He took loyal interest in community affairs and was a Republican in politics. Of his family of two sons and six daughters all are living except one daughter: Ida is the wife of John G. Van Dyke, a farmer near Grand Junction, Colorado; Julia is the wife of John A. Cullen, a farmer near McPherson, Kansas; Joseph C., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Jacob is a prosperous farmer in Rockford township and is also a minister of the Church of the Brethren; Mary, who became the wife of William H. Pair, is deceased; Martha is the wife of Irvin Frantz, of Sherman township; Hattie is the wife of Henry J. Frantz, of the same township; and Susan is the wife of Alvah C. Heaston, who is engaged in the automobile business at Lincoln, Nebraska.

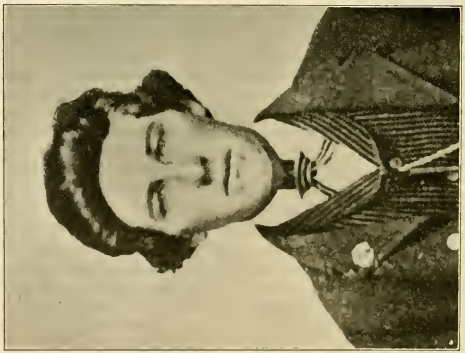
Joseph C. Dell acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of Iowa and after the family removed to Gage county he continued his studies in the district schools and also in the select school of Professor Blake, at Beatrice. His entire mature life has been marked by active association with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing, and through the medium of the same he has achieved definite success and advancement, his prosperity representing the direct result of his own efforts. His original independent farm operations were conducted on land which he rented, and finally he purchased eighty acres in Rockford township, to which he added, two years later, by the purchase of an adjoining tract of eighty acres. After making good improvements on this farm he traded the property for his present fine homestead farm, which now comprises three hundred and sixty acres, with the best type of buildings, the handsome house having been erected by him, as have been also the other excellent farm buildings which mark the place as a model farm. Mr. Dell is the owner also of a landed estate of twelve hundred and eighty acres in western Kansas.

In the year 1888 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Dell to Miss Mollie Cullen, daughter of James K. and Christena Cullen, who were born in Virginia and who came to Gage county in 1885. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Dell the following brief record is offered: Claude has the supervision of his father's large landed estate in Kansas; Ernest is associated in the management of the home farm; Lela is the wife of Earl Frantz and both are attending school at McPherson, Kansas, Mr. Frantz being a minister of the Brethren church; Carl Dell likewise is attending school at McPherson; and Milton, Joseph C., Jr., and Lois remain at the parental home.

Mr. Dell and his family are earnest members of the Church of the Brethren, and in politics he is aligned with the Republican party. As a progressive farmer he is giving special attention to the raising of pure-bred Short-horn cattle and Percheron horses, and at the time of this writing he has about fifty head of horses and an equal number of cattle on his farm. His progressiveness extends also to his status as a citizen and he takes deep interest in community affairs, though he has no ambition for public office.

SAMUEL MOWRY, to whom this memoir is dedicated, was one of the honored pioneers of Gage county and more than thirty years ago he was summoned to "that undis-

MRS. SAMUEL MOWRY



SAMUEL MOWRY

covered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." To him, as a man of sterling character and worthy achievement, a tribute is due in this history of the county in which he established his home in the year following that in which the Territory of Nebraska was admitted to statehood.

Samuel Mowry was born in Darke county, Ohio, on the 19th of June, 1847, and was a son of Jacob and Susan Mowry, who were natives of Pennsylvania and who became early settlers in Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Samuel Mowry was reared on the farm of his father and gained his youthful education in the schools of his native county. In 1868, as an ambitious and resolute young man of twenty-one years, he severed the ties that bound him to the old Buckeye state and set forth to establish a home in the west. In that year he arrived in Gage county, Nebraska, and here he obtained a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, the same constituting the southwest quarter of Section 7, Blue Springs township. Not a furrow had been turned on the prairie land and on the same no improvement of any kind had been made. Mr. Mowry's first house on his homestead was a little and primitive shanty, ten by twelve feet in dimensions and constructed of lumber cut from the native cottonwood trees, the logs having been hauled by him to Blue Springs, where they were sawed into rough boards. As he had learned in his native state the trade of stone mason, Mr. Mowry was able to provide somewhat better foundation for his modest house than those commonly in evidence in the pioneer community. He excavated a cellar and walled it up with stone, this being covered with a board roof. This embryonic house served as his place of abode several years. He set resolutely to work in subduing the virgin prairie and making it available for cultivation, and as the years passed he developed a productive farm, besides making good improvements on his farm. Here he continued his vigorous and productive activities as a farmer until the close of his earnest and useful life, his death having occurred on the 28th of February, 1887. He was a man of strong and noble character, was a loyal citizen, a true friend and a devoted husband and father — a person whose death entailed a distinct loss to the community in which he had long lived and labored to goodly ends. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party, but he never sought or desired public office of any kind. He was an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his widow, who has been a resident of Gage county since her childhood.

After coming to Gage county Mr. Mowry was here united in marriage to Miss Malissa Harpster, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, and who is a daughter of the late Solomon Harpster, to whom a memoir is entered on other pages of this volume. Mrs. Mowry shared with her husband in the trials and responsibilities of pioneer life and after the gracious marital ties were severed by the death of Mr. Mowry she remained on the farm for a number of years, during which she showed marked acumen and judgment in its management. For several years past she has maintained her home in the village of Blue Springs, and few of the pioneer women of the county have a more interesting fund of reminiscences pertaining to the pioneer period of Gage county history. April 10, 1918, represented the fiftieth anniversary of the day when with her parents she crossed the Blue river and entered the little pioneer hamlet of Blue Springs, this county, the village at that time having had but one store. Concerning this primitive mercantile establishment Mrs. Mowry has given the following statement: "About all that was sold in the store was green coffee, brown sugar, calico and patent medicine, and more of these commodities were sold to the Indians than to white persons, simply by reason of the fact that the Indians were greatly in preponderance in the locality at that time." Mrs. Mowry was a girl when she thus came with her parents to Gage county and she states that at the pioneer home of the Harpster family it was not unusual even to look up from work and see one or more Indians peering in at the window. Mr.

and Mrs. Mowry became the parents of four children, of whom two, George and Frederick, died in infancy. Edgar married Miss Anna Brinley and they reside in the city of Lincoln, this state, and Miss Leafy remains with her widowed mother in the pleasant home at Blue Springs.

THOMAS M. MARTIN was an honored pioneer who established his residence in Gage county in the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and his was also the distinction of having been a gallant soldier of the Union in the Civil war. He reclaimed and developed one of the fine farm properties of Sherman township and there continued his residence until the time of his death, which occurred January 27, 1917. A man of sterling character and one who accounted well for himself in all the relations of life, it is fitting that in this history be incorporated a tribute to his memory.

Thomas M. Martin was born in Union county, Indiana, on the 20th of December, 1836, and was a son of Thomas and Mary (Miller) Martin, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Pennsylvania.

The subject of this memoir was but three years of age at the time of his father's death, and the widowed mother eventually came to Nebraska and took up a homestead claim in Pawnee county, where she passed the remainder of her life. She contracted a second marriage and had two children by each marriage, all being now deceased.

After his marriage, in 1859, Thomas M. Martin continued his association with farm enterprise in Clinton county, Indiana, until the outbreak of the Civil war caused him to subordinate all else to tender his aid in defense of the Union. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company K, Seventy-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and with this valiant command he continued in service more than three years — until the close of the war. Mr. Martin took part in many of the historic campaigns and battles of the great conflict between the states of the north and the south, and among the various engagements in which he participated may be noted the battles of Chickamauga, Stone's River, Missionary Ridge, Selma (Alabama), and Hoover's Gap. He was with his regiment in the Atlanta campaign and was present at the battle of Atlanta, the burning of that city, and with Sherman on the subsequent march to the sea. In later years he vitalized the more gracious associations of his military career by his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic. After the close of the war Mr. Martin continued his association with farm activities in Indiana until 1867, in the autumn of which year he set forth, in company with his wife and their three children, for the frontier as represented in the new state of Nebraska. The long and weary journey was made with a team and covered wagon and thirty-four days elapsed before the little family party arrived in Gage county, on the 4th of October. Mr. Martin entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 19, Sherman township, and here initiated the reclaiming of a farm from the prairie wilderness. He and his brave and loyal wife endured to the full the tension incidental to frontier life and in the early days he was compelled at times to seek outside employment in order to provide for the needs of his family. With a courage equal to that which he had evinced as a soldier on the battlefields of the south, Mr. Martin girded himself for the winning of the victories of peace, and with the passing years success and independence crowned his earnest efforts. He developed one of the fine farm properties of Sherman township, and this estate, still retained by his widow, comprises two hundred and eighty acres, Mrs. Martin still remaining on the fine old homestead which is hallowed to her by the gracious memories and associations of the past. In the early days the home was isolated, with the nearest neighbors far removed, and Mrs. Martin frequently passed many weeks with her children in the pioneer home without seeing any other white person than the members of her own family, though Indians were still much in evidence. For a number of years Mr. Martin gave his attention to the operation of a thresh-

ing outfit, and on one occasion he handled work of this order on the site of the present court-house in the city of Beatrice. He was a Democrat in politics and was always a leader in the supporting of measures and enterprises tending to advance the civic and material welfare of his home community and county.

In Clinton county, Indiana, in the year 1859, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Martin to Miss Mary Dailey, who was born in Washington county, that state, on the 4th of September, 1840, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Feeler) Dailey, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia: they were pioneer settlers in Indiana, where they passed the remainder of their lives and where the father was a prosperous farmer. In conclusion of this paragraph is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Martin: Mary E. is married and resides in the state of Colorado; James W. is a prosperous farmer in Sherman township; Charles W. is engaged in farm enterprise in Rockford township; T. Malon is a substantial agriculturist and cattle-grower in Colorado; John M. rents the old homestead farm, on which he and his wife remain with the widowed mother, and of him more specific mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Lillie is the widow of William R. Rainey and resides with her mother on the old home place; and Ira Jackson is a substantial farmer near Liberty, this county.

From another source have been gained additional data of genealogical and personal order that will consistently supplement the foregoing narrative. Thomas Martin, father of the subject of this memoir, was born in Scotland, in the year 1809, and at the age of fifteen years he came to America in company with his father and two brothers, settlement being made at Louisville, Kentucky, the father later removing to Indiana and buying a tract of land, which he divided among his sons. Thomas Martin was a young man when he wedded Miss Mary Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1812, a daughter of Peter and Kate (Hafford) Miller, who removed to Indiana soon after the close of the war of 1812. Thomas Martin died in 1838 and his widow passed away in 1876. They became the parents of six sons and one daughter, all of whom are now deceased.

Thomas M. Martin made his initial visit to Nebraska in 1858, a year prior to his marriage, and it was not until after he had later made a fine record as a soldier in the Civil war that he finally came with his family to Nebraska and established a permanent home, as noted in preceding paragraphs. He never sought office, but did well his part in the advancing of the communal prosperity, his interest in his old comrades of the Civil war having been shown through his affiliation with Scott Post, No. 37, Grand Army of the Republic, at Blue Springs.

FREDERICK L. POTHAST has been cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Pickrell from the time of its organization, in 1904, has been a resourceful and progressive executive and wielded primary influence in the upbuilding of this substantial financial institution of Gage county. He is not only one of the principal stockholders of this bank but is also the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred acres in Gage county — two hundred and forty acres in Holt township and the remaining one hundred and sixty acres in Highland township: his farms are leased to and operated by efficient tenants.

Mr. Pothast was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, June 4, 1878, a son of David and Mary (Wendt) Pothast. He was but two years old at the time of his father's death, and his mother later became the wife of Frederick J. Smith, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present connection. Mr. Pothast was a child of two years when he accompanied his mother and stepfather to Gage county, where he was reared to manhood and was given the advantages of the public schools of the village of Cortland. After his graduation in the high school he taught two terms of district school and in 1898 he entered a commer-

MRS. ROBERT NICHOLAS

ROBERT NICHOLAS

cial college in the city of Omaha. In this institution he was graduated in the following year and he then entered into partnership with his stepfather, Mr. Smith, in the general merchandise business at Cortland, the enterprise having been conducted under the firm name of F. J. Smith & Company. In 1901 Mr. Pothast and his brother Edward L. engaged in the agricultural implement business at Cortland, and after he sold his interest in this business, in 1903, he was for about one year a traveling representative for the International Harvester Company, in the meanwhile maintaining his headquarters in the city of Lincoln. In May, 1904, Mr. Pothast became the organizer of the Farmers' State Bank at Pickrell, and of the same he has since been the cashier, as previously noted. In a frame building on the north side of the main street of the village the bank initiated business, after having been incorporated with a capital stock of five thousand dollars. Here operations were continued until 1912, when was erected the present modern and handsomely appointed bank building, and the business of the institution is now based on a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars, while its deposits are in excess of three hundred thousand dollars. The bank has been a valuable medium for the facilitation of industrial and commercial activities in this part of the county and is conducted with conservative policies but also with well ordered progressiveness. Edward Bauman, a representative farmer of Holt township, is president of the institution, and its vice-president, Christopher Spilker, is likewise one of the prosperous farmers of Holt township.

Though he is distinctly liberal and loyal in his civic attitude and a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party, Mr. Pothast has manifested no ambition for public office or political preferment of any kind. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, as a member of the Beatrice lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, in the city of Beatrice, and he and his wife are zealous members of the United Brethren church at Pickrell, he being a member of its board of trustees and having contributed liberally to the erection of the present church edifice.

December 12, 1900, recorded the marriage of Mr. Pothast to Miss Delia Clark, who was born in Virginia and who was a child at the time when the family home was established on a pioneer farm in Lancaster county, Nebraska, where she was reared and educated. She is a daughter of T. A. and Iva (Kincheloe) Clark, both of whom likewise were born in the historic old Dominion state. The father died when about seventy-five years of age, and the mother is still living, at Firth, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Pothast have two winsome little daughters, Audrey and Mildred.

ROBERT NICHOLAS — A history of Gage county would be incomplete without a record of the man whose name introduces the review. Mr. Nicholas was one of the very early pioneer settlers in Gage county, having come to Nebraska in 1860 and having settled in Gage county several years prior to the admission of the state to the Union.

Robert Nicholas was born in Glanstonbury, Somersetshire, England, in December, 1832, and his death occurred on his old homestead in Gage county, Nebraska, in 1913. His gracious wife, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Plucknett, was likewise born and reared in Glastonbury, England, but their acquaintanceship was formed in the state of Illinois, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they came to Gage county in the territorial period of Nebraska history. Here Mrs. Nicholas passed the remainder of her life, and she was one of the venerable pioneer women of the county at the time of her death, in 1910, at the age of seventy-six years. Robert Nicholas was reared and educated in his native land, and was an ambitious youth of eighteen years when he came to the United States and established his residence in Ohio. From that state he later removed to Hancock county, Illinois, where his marriage occurred and where he continued to be identified with farm enterprise until 1860, when he set forth for Nebraska Territory, transporting his family and little supply of household goods by

means of wagon and ox team. Upon his arrival in Gage county he entered claim to a homestead of wild prairie land in Sections 29 and 30, Grant township, where as soon as possible he completed a rude log house as the family domicile. With the ox team he then began vigorously the breaking of the virgin soil, and he and his noble wife endured the trials and hardships of the early pioneers. With the passing of the years prosperity attended the energetic and efficient efforts of Mr. Nicholas and he added materially to his landed estate. He continued farming until his death and developed one of the best farms in Gage county. He raised and fed cattle upon a large scale, and was one of the first men in Nebraska to raise hay from the tame grasses. In the early days trains would be stopped when passing his farm in order that the passengers might view his fine fields, and officials of the railroad company sent samples of his timothy and clover back to the east, in exploiting the fine resources of this section of Nebraska. Before the admission of the state to the Union and prior to the Civil war, Mr. Nicholas hauled wheat by team and wagon to St. Joseph, Missouri, and from the money received in payment for the same he purchased a corn-planter. This was the first implement of the kind put into commission in Gage county, and when he arrived in Beatrice the citizens gathered about to view the novelty, most of then not knowing to what purpose the machine was to be applied. On the old homestead were born all the children of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas, and it may well be understood that to these children many gracious memories attach to the place.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas were the parents of six children, as follows: Frank E. is successfully established in the creamery business in Dewitt, Saline county; Alfretta is the wife of Walter W. Barney, president of the State Bank of Dewitt; Norton B. died when about five years of age; Jessie N. is the wife of Frank Buss, of Hunter, Oklahoma; George W. is now postmaster of Dewitt, and concernhim a record will be found on other pages of this publication; Elizabeth is the wife of Frank O. Ellis, of Beatrice.

MARTIN F. EICKMANN. — That surety of vision and judgment that makes for definite success in connection with the practical affairs of life is being signally exemplified in the business career of Mr. Eickmann, who is a young man well entitled to classification among the efficient and progressive business executives of Gage county and its metropolis. He has won advancement through his ability and efficient service and now holds the responsible office of secretary of the German Savings & Loan Association, one of the strong and well ordered financial and fiduciary institutions of this section of his native state.

Mr. Eickmann was born in Thayer county, Nebraska, on the 9th of July, 1889, a son of Christ and Mary (Sorge) Eickmann, both natives of Germany — the former having been born in Brandenburg, in 1861, and the latter in the province of Hanover, in October, 1866. Christ Eickmann was a boy at the time of the family immigration to America and was reared and educated in the state of Wisconsin, where he received the advantages of the public schools of Fond du Lac and where also he served an apprenticeship to the tailor's trade. He was eighteen years of age when he accompanied his father to Nebraska, the journey being made from Omaha to Grand Island by way of the Union Pacific Railroad and from the latter point they walked overland to their destination in Thayer county, this state. Though he had virtually no financial resources he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Thayer county eventually, and with the passing years substantial success crowned his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. He became one of the representative farmers of Thayer county, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in July, 1908, his widow being still a resident of that county. His father, Christ Eickmann, Sr., likewise became a pioneer farmer of Thayer county and after there acquiring one hundred and twenty acres of land the father returned to Wiscon-

sin to make provision for bringing the remainder of his family to the new home. He achieved independence and prosperity in connection with the development of the natural resources of Thayer county and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, he having followed the trade of wagonmaker during the period of his residence in Wisconsin. Frederick Sorge, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, came with his family to America in 1862 and became one of the very early settlers of Thayer county, where he developed a valuable farm, and he is now a resident of the village of Deshler, where he is honored as one of the sterling and venerable pioneer citizens of Thayer county. Christ Eickmann, Jr., was a man of splendid energy and of superior mentality, so that he was well equipped for leadership in community affairs. In a basic way he gave support to the principals of the Democratic party but in connection with local matters he held himself independent of strict partisan lines. He served for a number of years as a member of the school board of his district and otherwise he gave his earnest support to those things that tend to advance the general welfare. His religious faith was that of the German Lutheran church, of which his widow likewise is a zealous communicant. Of their five children four are living and of the number, Martin F., of this sketch, is the eldest; William remains with his widowed mother on the old homestead farm in Thayer county, as did also Richard until he entered the national army being raised to represent the United States in the great European war, he being at the present time (in the winter of 1917) with his command at Camp Funston, Kansas; Arthur, youngest of the four sons, remains on the old home farm.

Martin F. Eickmann acquired his preliminary education in the Lutheran parochial schools of Thayer county and supplemented this by an effective course in Northwestern College, at Watertown, Wisconsin, his uncle, Martin Eickmann, having been at that time a member of the faculty of that institution. Prior to the death of his father Mr. Eickmann had completed a course in the preparatory department of this college, and as the eldest son he thereafter gave his attention for a short time to the management of the home farm. His tastes and ambition, however, lay in other directions, and he came to Beatrice, where he completed a course in a business college, after which he obtained a clerical position in the Union State Bank of this city, at a salary of fifteen dollars a month. He so applied himself as to make the best possible use of the experience gained, and by faithful and efficient service he won advancement. He continued with this banking institution from 1909 to 1914, in which latter year he was elected secretary of the German Savings & Loan Association, a position of which he has since continued the efficient and popular incumbent, this institution having been founded in 1913. By his own efforts Mr. Eickmann has achieved success and an inviolable reputation, and in the city of Beatrice he is the owner not only of his own attractive residence property, but also of a number of vacant city lots. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and he and his wife are active communicants of the German Lutheran church.

On the 14th of October, 1914, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Eickmann to Miss Blanche M. Purdy, who was born and reared in this county, her father, William W. Purdy, being now a resident of Beatrice, where he follows the trade of plasterer and controls a successful contracting business in this line. Mr. and Mrs. Eickmann have a fine little son — Martin F., Jr., who was born July 9, 1917.

EUGENE P. MUMFORD. — He whose name introduces this review is not only one of the progressive and representative business men of Gage county, but is also a descendant of one of the well known and influential pioneer families of this part of the state. The name of Mumford is prominently linked with the early history and industrial development of Gage county, where its original representatives settled in territorial days. Eugene is

upholding the honors of the family name, and his business life has given impetus to industrial and civic advancement in Gage county. By reason of his being reared and educated on the broad prairies of Nebraska, with fresh air and sunny skies, and under the freedom of pioneer days, he learned the first principles of good citizenship from early experiences on the farm, and he has kept pace with the march of development and progress.

"Gene," the name by which he is generally known, was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on the 1st day of April, 1863. He is a son of John B. and Mary A. (Roach) Mumford, the former of whom was born in Maryland, of English parentage, on September 20, 1829, and the latter of whom was born in Adams county, Ohio, of Holland and English lineage.

John B. Mumford first came to Gage county, Nebraska, in May, 1860, in company with his brother Ismay, who was the first county treasurer of the county, and whose son Dawson Mumford was the first white boy born in the county. John B. Mumford returned to Wisconsin, and in 1865 he again came to Gage county, with his brother Jacob. He settled on one hundred and sixty acres of land, ten miles north of Beatrice on Bear creek, one of the best farming localities in the county. To this in later years he added by the purchase of two hundred and forty acres, making his estate one of four hundred acres. On his farm he continued to reside during the remainder of his life.

Mr. Mumford was an enterprising citizen and had much to do with the development of the county, and it may be said of him that he continued to contribute his quota to the county's progress until his death, February 14, 1904. His widow, now (1918) eighty years of age, still resides in Gage county, having moved to Beatrice after the death of her husband, and is one of the venerable and revered pioneers of the county, she being among the very few of the original settlers left. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Mumford, six survive: Sarah E. is the wife of William A. Foreman, who was a successful farmer and is the owner of a good farm of four hundred acres, located six miles northeast of Beatrice. They have now retired and live in Beatrice. Charles B. is noted for his love of fine horses and has owned many good ones. Of late years he has been engaged in the automobile business at Beatrice. Eugene P. was the next in order of birth. Ida N. is the wife of Lawrence W. Epard, and they reside upon the old homestead of her father, adjoining the old home place, John B. Mumford having relinquished the homestead in the early days to his sister. Frank W. is still living in the old home where he was born. He is also an extensive live-stock shipper. Luther E., former principal of the Beatrice high school, is now living in Lincoln, Nebraska, and is engaged in school work.

The late John B. Mumford took a decided interest in political and public affairs, and was always a Democrat. He did much to advance the party but never consented to be a candidate for office. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his venerable widow is a member of the Christian church.

Eugene P. Mumford was about two years old at the time the family moved to Gage county. He profited by the advantages of the country school and later attended the Blake Select School of Beatrice, but never completed the regular course of study. He has devoted much time to reading, and had the good fortune of having association and friendship with such pioneer characters as J. B. Weston, George P. Marvin, Judge Alfred Hazlett, R. S. Bibb, and D. W. Cook, for all of whom he had much respect and who contributed much to his fund of useful information. He is a Democrat politically, as were his ancestors "from the time the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." He belonged to the old school known as "gold" Democrats, and was opposed to free silver during the campaign on that issue. He was a student of Adam Smith on finance and believed in a commodity basis for value. He has done much, with the assistance of his brother Frank, to build up the ranks of the

party and has been twice recognized for loyalty. He was appointed revenue collector for the southeast division of Nebraska during President Cleveland's administration, and although he filed his resignation at the end of four years, he was retained two years under President McKinley, owing to his familiarity with the service, and to the exigencies of the Spanish-American war. He was selected by Governor John H. Morehead as private secretary to that able executive during his several terms as governor of Nebraska. Mr. Mumford is now engaged in business at Beatrice. His reputation for absolute reliability in all transactions and his wide acquaintanceship and knowledge of affairs have established for him a good business in the real estate and insurance enterprise, including the rental of properties, of which he has farm and city property to look after. He also has a furniture store, which he conducts with the assistance of his nephew, C. D. Mumford.

On the 22d of June, 1898, Mr. Mumford was united in marriage to Lenda Mostert, who was born near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and came to Nebraska in 1878, when seven years of age. Mrs. Mumford is of German lineage, her people coming from Bavaria. She was studious during her school days and in 1888 was graduated with honor in the Beatrice high school. For ten years thereafter she was an instructor in the Beatrice schools. Mrs. Mumford has always been active in school affairs, and is held in high regard by her many friends and associates. She is a member of the Trinity Lutheran church and has taken an active part in the work of that organization. She is at the present time treasurer of the Young Women's Christian Association and is now serving her third term. Mr. and Mrs. Mumford are the parents of one son, Paul E., who was graduated at the Beatrice high school in the class of 1918.

CHARLES H. OJERS has been a resident of Nebraska for nearly half a century and since 1889 he has been numbered among the honored citizens and representative farmers of Lincoln township, Gage county, where he has made the best of improvements on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres that constitutes the northeast quarter of Section 3, this property having been a heritage received by his wife from the estate of her father, who was an influential pioneer of Nebraska.

Mr. Ojers was born in Steuben county, New York, on the 15th of May, 1851, and is a son of John A. and Phoebe A. (Huntley) Ojers, the former of whom was born in the city of London, England, in 1821, and the latter of whom was born in Steuben county, New York, in April, 1823, a representative of one of the well known pioneer families of that section of the Empire state. In his native city John A. Ojers gained his youthful education and also served a thorough apprenticeship to the shoemaker's trade. As a young man he came to the United States and, as a skilled workman, found employment at his trade. After his marriage he continued his residence in the state of New York until 1856, when he removed with his family to Illinois and established his residence in Ogle county, where he continued in the work of his trade for a number of years. In 1874 he and his wife came to Nebraska, where he passed the remainder of his long and useful life. his death having occurred at DeWitt, Saline county, in 1909, at which time he was eighty-eight years of age. His venerable widow, who celebrated in the spring of 1917 the ninety-fourth anniversary of her birth, is one of the revered women of Gage county and is passing the gentle evening of her life in the village of Wymore.

Charles H. Ojers was five years of age at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where he was reared to manhood and where his educational advantages were those offered by the common schools. There he gave his attention principally to farm work, being employed by the month, until he had attained to his legal majority, when, in 1872, he came to Nebraska and rented land in Johnson county. Under these conditions he there continued his operations as a farmer until 1887, when he removed to Saline county and set-

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES H. OJERS

tled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which his wife inherited and which they still own. In 1889 they came to Gage county and established their home on their present attractive farm, upon which he has made admirable improvements in the way of buildings and other permanent evidences of thrift and good management, and which he has made one of the fine farms of Lincoln township. He has been a vigorous and productive representative of farm industry during the many years of his residence in Nebraska and has achieved success worthy of the name. He is progressive and judicious in his business policies and in addition to his valuable farm holdings he is a substantial stockholder in the Blue Valley Mercantile Company of Beatrice. Though he has had neither time nor inclination for political activity or public office of any kind, he accords loyal support to the cause of the Republican party, and he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On the 20th of August, 1871, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ojers to Miss Fannie R. Rathburn, who was born in Ogle county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of the late Job B. Rathburn, an honored pioneer who accumulated a very extensive and valuable landed estate in southeastern Nebraska and was one of the prominent and influential citizens of Gage county at the time of his death. Of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Ojers, Charles, who was born in 1872, died at the age of five years; George L., born in 1874, died in early childhood; Annie R., who was born in 1874, is the wife of Edward Zobel and they reside with her parents on the latter's homestead farm, of which Mr. Zobel has much of the active management; and Addie R., who was born in 1881, is the wife of Essa A. Lash, a prosperous farmer in Saline county, where he operates a farm owned by his wife's father. Mr. and Mrs. Lash have six children — Lloyd, Myrtle, George, John, Mary, and Gertrude.

JEFFERSON B. WESTON. — Not too often and not through the agency of too many vehicles can be recorded the life history of one who lived so honorable and useful a life as did the late Jefferson B. Weston, who wrote his name in large and indelible characters on the history of the state of Nebraska, within whose borders he established his home three years after the creation of the original territory and fully six years prior to the reduction of its area to the present limitations. He was one of the founders and builders of this now noble and opulent commonwealth and he gave the best of an essentially strong and loyal nature to the service of the territory and the state; his life course was guided and governed by the highest principles of integrity and honor. As offering a somewhat intimate and assuredly earnest and consistent estimate of the man and his services, there is all of propriety in perpetuating in this memoir the following extracts from an appreciative article that appeared in the *Beatrice Sun* at the time of the death of Mr. Weston, who passed from the stage of life's mortal endeavors on the 15th of September, 1905, minor elimination and paraphrase being indulged in the reproduction of these excerpts:

"Mr. Weston was born at Bremen, Lincoln county, Maine, on the 3d of March, 1831, and thus he was nearly seventy-five years of age at the time of his death. He was a scion of the staunchest of colonial New England ancestry and in his personality always manifested the sturdy and rugged characteristics of a strong and worthy ancestry. When he was about twenty years of age Mr. Weston entered Union College, at Schnectady, New York, and in this institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1856. In less than a year thereafter he joined the exodus of emigrants who were pushing their way westward, and in April, 1857, he came to the new territory of Nebraska, which then extended from the Missouri river west to the Rocky mountains and from the fortieth parallel to the Canadian border. He was one of the leaders of that band of intrepid men and women who, on board the old river boat 'Hannibal,' on the 3d of April, 1857, while stuck on a sand bar opposite Doniphan, Kansas, entered into a compact to remain together

and locate somewhere in the new territory of Nebraska, with the definite purpose of there founding a city. He was the principal member of the committee representing this company of pioneers, and this committee, upon personal inspection in May of that year, determined upon the site which comprises the original town of Beatrice as the location of the prospective city to be founded by these sterling pioneers, and Mr. Weston was one of the enthusiastic young men who made prompt answer when the roll of this company was called on the site of Beatrice, June 27, 1857. From the date of his arrival in the territory Mr. Weston identified himself fully and vigorously with the activities of pioneer life. In the early days he engaged in various freighting ventures and with ox teams crossed the plains to Denver and other points, besides having gained his quota of experience in trading with the Indians and with mining enterprise. Early in his career he was admitted to the territorial bar, and for some time prior to 1872 he gave considerable time and attention to the practice of his profession, as one of the pioneer members of the bar of Gage county and its judicial center.

"In the autumn of 1872 Mr. Weston was elected auditor of public accounts of the state of Nebraska, and by successive re-elections he continued the incumbent of this office from January, 1873, until January, 1879. From 1873 to 1886 he and his family resided in the city of Lincoln, capital of the state, but with this exception he held continuous residence at Beatrice from 1857 until the time of his death.

"From the brief data here presented it will be seen that Mr. Weston was closely identified with the history of Nebraska from the beginning. He belonged to that class of frontiersmen who have in a large degree the constructive faculty. Possessed of the true pioneer spirit which looks far into the future and sees states rise from tenantless wildernesses and naked plains, he never wavered from his trust that here God had marked the outlines of a great commonwealth. He lived to see the justification of his faith and to participate in a large measure in the fruition of his hopes.

"Not only was Mr. Weston the possessor of a liberal education but he was also a man of large intellectual life. Deliberate and conservative in his judgment, he was accustomed to take an accurate and comprehensive view of human affairs. His clear, comprehensive way of looking at things made him one of the most useful members of the community in which he lived and also a useful and valued citizen of his state. His charity was large, his kindness of heart without bounds, and in his habits and associations he was the most democratic of men. With a generous, open-hearted faith in humanity and a deep-rooted faith in God, he came to the end of his long journey in an atmosphere of hope, courage and cheer that was infectious and touched all who came within the sphere of his benign influence. Men loved him, and to hundreds in his home community and in other portions of the state the world will be lonelier and less inviting without Jefferson B. Weston."

Measured by its beneficence, its rectitude, its productiveness, its unconscious altruism, and its material success, the life of Hon. Jefferson B. Weston counted for much, and Nebraska is perpetually favored in that as a young man he allied himself with all of thoroughness and completeness with its interests, grew with its growth and dignified and honored the territory and the state by his character and his achievement. Standing in the light and unassuming glory of life and character like this, those of the younger generation of Americans may gain lesson and inspiration and feel the thrill of buoyant loyalty and patriotism, the while there can not fail to be appreciation of the splendid and ever widening influence which such a life implies.

In the stability of his mature judgment Mr. Weston was well fortified in his opinions concerning economic and governmental policies, and he gave his political allegiance to the Republican party. Mr. Weston was associated with other representative citizens in the founding of the Beatrice National Bank,

which received its charter in the autumn of 1883, and by the original board of directors he was elected president of the institution, an office of which he continued the incumbent until his death — a period of nearly a quarter of a century.

In 1860, at Nebraska City, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Weston to Miss Helen Towle, who was born at Hennepin, Illinois, a daughter of Albert and Catherine (Holt) Towle, who likewise were numbered among the honored pioneers of Nebraska. Mrs. Weston survived her honored husband and in her gentle and gracious womanhood she proved a true complement to his virile and upright manhood, so that the home relations were ideal during a devoted companionship that continued nearly half a century and that was broken only by the death of the husband and father. Mrs. Weston passed to the life eternal on the 25th of February, 1917, and her memory is revered by all who came within the compass of her gentle and gracious influence. Mr. and Mrs. Weston became the parents of four children — Ralph A., Elizabeth L., Herbert T., and Katharine. Ralph A. is now a resident of Millet, Alberta, Canada, and Katharine, who became the wife of Thomas E. Wing, was a resident of Scarsdale, New York, at the time of her death. Elizabeth L. and Herbert T. remain in Beatrice.

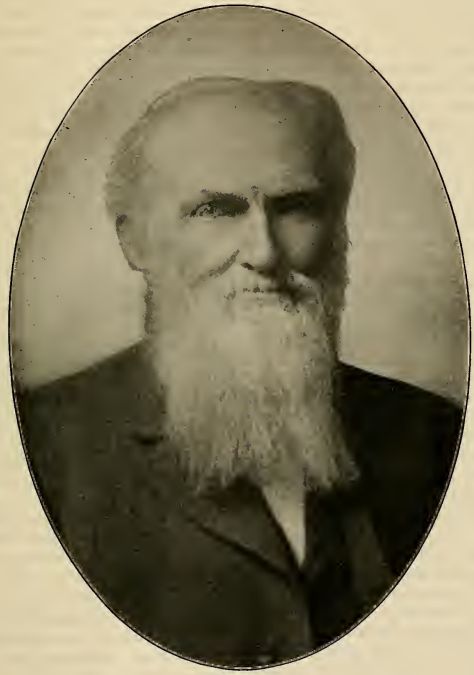
JOSEPH LUTHER WEBB, M. D. — Large, definite, and benignant was the impress which this honored pioneer left in connection with this history of Gage county, and no work purporting to give record concerning those who have here been the vigorous apostles of civic and material development and progress can be consistent with itself if there is failure to accord an earnest tribute of recognition to Dr. Webb. He was one of the very first physicians to establish residence and engage in practice in the little frontier community which was the nucleus of the present city of Beatrice, and it has well been said that "all through the rest of his life he was closely associated with every movement looking toward the development, growth, and social and material well-being of the community.

Dr. Webb was born on a pioneer homestead farm near the city of Springfield, Illinois, and the date of his nativity was August 1, 1837. He was a son of Luther Hiram Webb and Martha (Bellows) Webb, both representatives of sterling families that were founded in New England in the early colonial period of our national history. The Doctor was the sixth in order of birth in a family of seven children and the youngest of the number was Hiram P., who likewise became prominently identified with pioneer activities in Gage county, Nebraska. Concerning the early period in the career of Dr. Webb the following record has been prepared, and it is worthy of perpetuation in this connection: "When the Doctor was but ten years old his father and elder brother died, only a day apart, leaving the widowed mother and the surviving children on the pioneer homestead. In the face of most strenuous hardships and trials the devoted mother struggled to keep her family together and saw to it that each child was cared for and afforded the best educational advantages offered in that pioneer locality, the capital city of Illinois having been a mere village at that time. After having availed himself of the advantages of the local schools, Dr. Webb went to Springfield, the state capital, and there he prosecuted his study of medicine in the offices of several of the leading physicians of the place, this method of preliminary training having been commonly in vogue in the locality and period. At this time Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas and many other men who attained to eminence were residing in Springfield, and the ambitious young student came to an appreciable extent under their influence, his life ever afterward having shown the strong characteristics that such association tended to develop. With characteristic ambition and zeal Dr. Webb pursued his medical studies and finally he found it possible to enter the Eclectic Medical Institute in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, an institution of celebrity at

the time and one notable for leadership in the development of medical reform and advancement, — one that continues to the present day as a strong and influential school of medicine. In this college the Doctor was graduated as a member of the class of 1871 and in the same year he established his permanent residence in Gage county, which he had previously visited. In 1867 the new country represented in Nebraska, which was admitted to statehood in that year, was being much talked about and exploited in the eastern states, and a group of young men from the vicinity of Springfield, Illinois, and including Dr. Webb and his brothers, decided to pay a visit to this new land of promise. Accordingly, they set forth, and they made the trip partly by stage, partly by rail, partly on horseback, and for a considerable distance on foot, gaining much from each experience. Before returning the Webb brothers had acquired in Gage county a tract of land, as an investment. They then returned to their home in Illinois and after having prepared himself thoroughly for the work of his chosen profession Dr. Webb reverted to the favorable impression which Nebraska had made upon him, with the result that, in 1871, he came to Gage county and established himself as one of the pioneer physicians and surgeons in the embryonic city of Beatrice.

"The country was sparsely settled and the practice of medicine must needs be carried on without the aid of any of the modern conveniences, such as laboratories, hospitals, telephones, automobiles, consultants, and stores where needed appliances could be obtained. The life of the self-abnegating and faithful physician was full of exposure, long and irregular hours and all manner of incidental hardships. Dr. Webb's ministrations in the early days often involved the making of trips that required several days to complete, and on numerous occasions he found his buggy unavailable for further progress, so that he would proceed on horseback and at times even on foot — moved by an inviolable sense of stewardship and consecrated professional zeal. Travel would follow the trails and ridges, streams were to be forded, and the Doctor must needs be both physician and nurse in cases of emergency. Still, the services thus rendered seemed to be more on a basis of friendship than mere remuneration, and the heartfelt appreciation and affectionate regard which these old-time physicians won proved a greater and worthier recompense than that of mere money. Such close and inviolable relationships are seldom possible between the physicians of the present day and their clients. Later in life Dr. Webb was pleased to recount, with animation and appreciation, many stories of experience gained during these early years, when the buffalo, the Indian, the desperado sometimes crossed his path. He had unexpected meetings with many whose names are prominently associated with frontier annals in the west, as well as border outlaws and other insubordinate characters, but his genial personality and indomitable courage were such that such encounters never resulted in specially unpleasant experiences."

Dr. Webb was humanity's friend in the highest sense of the expression, was tolerant and kindly in his judgment, and he labored earnestly and efficiently in the alleviation of suffering and distress — a guide and counsellor to many of the representative pioneer families of Gage and adjoining counties. He continued in active practice until within a few years prior to his death, and even after his retirement many of his former clients refused to receive ministration from any other source. He was loved and revered in the county which so long was the stage of his earnest endeavors, and the entire community manifested a sense of personal loss and bereavement when he passed from the scene of this mortal life. Pertinent, indeed, are the following quotations: "Dr. Webb was a man of vigorous health, regular habits and temperate living. He was active in church and other Christian work, true to his friends and possessed of an exceptionally broad education, with a philosophy in life that made him a pleasant member of any group in which he appeared. He made a trip into the country



Dr. Joseph L. Webb, Sr.

on the morning of May 12, 1911, returned and was with his family at noon. He went to his down-town office as usual, and there he was suddenly taken ill, passing into unconsciousness about sundown, and his death occurred near midnight. His demise was so unexpected that it came as a distinct shock to the community when it was announced the next morning."

Associating themselves with other representative citizens, Dr. Webb and his brother Hiram P. were closely identified with the early development of the community. They gave freely of their time and energy in the furtherance of every movement that seemed to promise good to the interests of the commonwealth, and the early annals of Gage county history give record of much which they did to accelerate social and material progress in the county and especially the city of Beatrice.

On the 2d of October, 1873, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Webb to Miss Kate Louise Sheppard, daughter of G. W. Sheppard, who had come with his wife and children from England to America in the preceding year and who established a home in Gage county. In conclusion of this memoir is given brief record concerning the children of Dr. and Mrs. Webb, the latter continuing to occupy the attractive old homestead in the city of Beatrice and being an earnest member of the Episcopal church: Hiram L., eldest of the children, now resides near the city of Binghampton, New York; James Edgar died in infancy; Dr. Joseph Lewis Webb is individually mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Kate L. remains with her widowed mother, being prominent in the women's activities of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church of Beatrice and also in the local and national affairs of the Young Women's Christian Association, the while she is a popular figure in the representative social life of her native city.

HON. LEWIS B. BOGGS, M. D., a man of distinguished intellectual and professional ability and high ideals, came with his family to Gage county in 1872, and it was given him to wield a large and benignant influence not only as a pioneer physician and surgeon of this section of the state, but also as a man of affairs and a citizen whose civic loyalty and exceptional talents made him a most influential factor in public affairs in the county and state of his adoption. Now venerable in years, he and his wife maintain their residence in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to which state they removed from Gage county in 1894. As sterling pioneers who represented the best in civic life in Gage county for many years, it is fitting that they be accorded recognition in this history.

Dr. Lewis Bowen Boggs was born at Newcastle, Indiana, September 3, 1828, the fourth in order of birth in a family of seven children. His paternal grandfather, Andrew Boggs, was born and reared in Ireland and upon coming to America established his residence in Virginia, in which historic old commonwealth he passed the remainder of his life. James Boggs, father of the Doctor, was born in Virginia, where he was reared and educated, and as a young man of twenty years he went to Indiana and settled in the pioneer town of Newcastle. There was solemnized his marriage to Miss Martha Stinson, who was born in eastern Tennessee, October 26, 1806, her parents having removed from Tennessee to Indiana and having become pioneer settlers in Henry county, where they passed the rest of their lives, the father, John Stinson, having there become a prosperous farmer. James Boggs continued his residence in Henry county, Indiana, until his death, November 7, 1842, and he there reclaimed and improved a valuable farm, his status having been that of a substantial and influential citizen of that section of the old Hoosier state. His widow survived him by nearly a decade and was summoned to the life eternal on the 6th of March, 1852.

Dr. Lewis B. Boggs was but fourteen years of age at the time of his father's death and was thus early thrown upon his own resources. For a time he worked for his board and clothing, in the meanwhile finding it pos-

sible to attend school during the winter terms. His alert mentality was on a parity with his ambition, and he determined to obtain a liberal education. He continued to be associated with farm enterprise until he had attained to the age of twenty years, when he entered Wabash College. In this institution he completed the full classical course, and after leaving college he was employed for one year in a grain elevator at Michigan City, Indiana. At Leesburg, that state, he then took up the study of medicine, under effective private preceptorship, and he applied himself with such characteristic diligence and receptivity that three years later he was able to engage in active general practice, at North Manchester, Indiana. There he remained until 1858, when he removed to Neponset, Illinois, which locality continued to be the stage of his effective professional labors until 1865, when he returned to Indiana and established himself in practice at Argos, Marshall county. There he retained a large and representative general practice until 1870, when, on account of his impaired health, he turned over his practice to his younger brother. In 1872 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and eighty-five acres of land in what is now Filley township. For this property he paid only four and one-half dollars an acre and with the passing years he reclaimed it into one of the fine farm properties of the county. Here he gave his attention primarily to the raising of live stock, and when it became known throughout the pioneer community that he was a skilled physician and surgeon he was prevailed upon to resume here the practice of his profession, in the meanwhile continuing his farm enterprise with the effective assistance of his sons. Within a short time he built up a large practice, the same extending over a radius of twenty miles, and he devoted himself earnestly and unselfishly to the alleviation of human suffering under conditions that involved arduous work and many hardships. This pioneer physician thus gained the affectionate regard of the entire community and his name is revered in the county where he thus lived and labored to goodly ends.

In 1887 Dr. Boggs retired from the active practice of his profession, but he still retained most vital interest in community affairs and those of governmental and general public order. He became deeply interested in the cause of prohibition and was associated with others in establishing a prohibition publication to which was given the name of the *New Republic*. He was actively associated with the management of this periodical, which was made an influential organ of the cause. Dr. Boggs was reared in the faith of the Democratic party but prior to the Civil war he had become a staunch abolitionist, doing all in his power to remove the institution of human slavery from the nation.

In 1876 Dr. Boggs was elected representative of Gage county in the Nebraska legislature, and he made a characteristically effective record in the promotion of wise legislation. He was assigned to important committees of the house of representatives, including the judiciary committee, and his loyal activities as a legislator were of that exalted order which was to be expected of a man of his temperament and ability. The Doctor has for many years been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he was one of the founders and a director of the first banking institution established in the village of Filley. He was loyal and liberal in the support of measures and movements tending to advance the general well-being of his home county. He was one of the most influential representatives of the Prohibition party in Gage county and in 1884 was a presidential elector on the party ticket. He acquired a large landed estate in Gage county and was the true apostle of civic and industrial progress.

In LaPorte county, Indiana, on the 26th of October, 1854, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Boggs to Miss Virginia R. Fraser, a daughter of James and Sarah (Campbell) Fraser, the former of whom was born at Alexandria, Virginia, July 3, 1798, and the latter in the city of Washington, D. C., in the year 1808. The parents were married in

the city of Washington and in 1834 became pioneer settlers in LaPorte county, Indiana, in which state they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Boggs was born in LaPorte county, March 28, 1836, and was there reared and educated, she having been the third in a family of eight children.. Dr. and Mrs. Boggs became the parents of a fine family of thirteen children, and of the nine now living the names and respective dates of birth are here noted: James F., January 7, 1856; Charles S., June 19, 1857 (individually mentioned on other pages of this work); Eva L. (wife of P. E. Plumb), November 19, 1858; Mary Ellen (wife of William H. Andrew), August 5, 1860; Luther A., April 16, 1862; Thomas W., March 8, 1864; Benjamin F., March 16, 1866; Alice C. (wife of H. H. Halliday), March 4, 1868; and Minnie (wife of George Scott), February 11, 1881.

GUSTAVUS A. ERICKSON merits consideration in this work by reason of his secure status as one of the representative farmers and citizens of Sherman township. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 2d of August, 1871, and is a son of Peter and Susan Erickson, both natives of Sweden. Peter Erickson was reared and educated in his native land and was a sturdy and ambitious youth of twenty years when he came to the United States. For some time thereafter he was employed at Galesburg, Illinois, where his marriage was solemnized, and in 1876 he removed with his family to Iowa, where he remained until 1884, as a farmer, and whence he then came to Gage county, Nebraska. Here he became the owner of a half-section of land, in Sherman township, and he developed this into one of the well improved and valuable farm properties of the county. He finally sold one hundred and sixty acres, but the remainder of the place he retained in his possession until his death, in 1901, his widow being now (1918) seventy-eight years of age. Of their four children three are living and of that number the subject of this sketch is the eldest; Minnie is the wife of E. G. Crook; Frank is deceased; and Ida is the wife of William Kresbaugh, who has charge of the old homestead farm of Peter Erickson. Mr. Erickson was a Republican in politics and was an earnest member of the Luthern church, as is also his venerable widow. He came to the United States without other reinforcement than his individual energy and determined purpose, and he achieved worthy success through his association with farm enterprise.

Gustavus A. Erickson was a lad of five years at the time of the family removal from Illinois to Iowa, and in the latter state he received his early education in the public schools. He was thirteen years old when his parents came to Gage county, and here he continued to attend school at intervals, the while he assisted materially in the work of the home farm. After beginning independent operations as a farmer he utilized rented land for five years, and he then purchased eighty acres of his present farm, the place now comprising one hundred and sixty acres. In addition to this homestead he owns other Gage county land of such amount as to make the area of his estate in the county four hundred acres, besides which he is the owner of four hundred acres in the state of Kansas. He has made excellent improvements on his homestead farm and in addition to carrying on well ordered operations as an agriculturist he raises each year a large number of cattle and swine of good type.

Mr. Erickson is a stalwart Republican and he is serving in 1918 as chairman of the township board. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America and his wife and children hold membership in the Christian church.

In 1893 Mr. Erickson wedded Miss Mary Mangus, who was born in Illinois and who is a daughter of William Mangus, who came with his family to Gage county in 1883 and who was here the owner of a valuable farm estate of four hundred acres at the time of his death, he having been born in Virginia and his wife, who survives him, having been born in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson became the parents of five children, all of whom are living except the third, Nellie, who died at the

age of two years; Oliver is a sophomore in a leading dental college in the city of Omaha; Walter is now associated with his father in farm enterprise; and Edith and Alva are attending the local district school.

AMOS L. WRIGHT is one of the honored territorial pioneers of Gage county and has become one of the specially successful exponents of industrial and business enterprise in this section of the state — an influential citizen who now resides in the village of Virginia, Sherman township, and who is properly given a tribute in this history of the county to whose development and progress he has contributed in generous measure.

Mr. Wright was born in Menard county, Illinois, on the 27th of February, 1844, and there he gained ample experience in connection with the work of the piorneer farm, the while he made excellent use of the educational advantages that were afforded him, as shown by the fact that he became a successful and popular representative of the pedagogic profession after he became a pioneer of Gage county, Nebraska, where he taught school three winter terms. He was an ambitious young man of twenty-two years when, in 1866, he came to Nebraska Territory, which was admitted to statehood in the following year. Here he found work as a farm hand, at a compensation of ten dollars a month, and finally he began the breaking and improving of his homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 10 Blakely township. In 1868 he hauled from this pioneer farm to Nebraska City three wagon-loads of wheat, representing his entire crop for that season, and for the same he received sixty cents a bushel. That the loads were not large in volume is vouched for by the fact that the sacks of grain were hauled on a wagon without sideboards. In 1867, with ox and horse teams, he broke up a part of his land, and in that year he was a member of a company, including Jacob Rutherford and seventeen other pioneers, who made their way to the west to assist in quelling insubordinate Indians, he and Mr. Rutherford being now the only surviving members of this expedition against the Cheyenne Indians, but in the connection they failed to encounter a single Indian except one who was dead.

Mr. Wright reclaimed his farm into one of the productive tracts of Blakely township and there remained until 1886, when he removed with his family to Sherman township, where he purchased a tract of six hundred and forty acres — the south half of Section 14 and the north half of Section 23. On this fine estate he made the best improvements and engaged extensively in general farm industry, including diversified agriculture and the raising of live stock. Later he was engaged in the grain and lumber business in the village of Virginia, but he still retains possession of his land in Gage county. He passes a portion of each year with his children, in Gage county, where are many associations and memories that are hallowed to him and where his circle of friends is limited only by that of his acquaintances, and the intervening periods he customarily utilizes in visiting his daughter in California.

In Gage county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wright to Miss Clara Wickham, who was born in Holt county, Missouri, July 27, 1848, and they became the parents of three children: Frances A. is the widow of Joseph E. Penry and resides at Bostonia, California, she being the mother of three children; Bessie is the wife of William Holm, a representative merchant at Virginia, Gage county, and they have two daughters; and Fred A. is individually mentioned in this publication.

Amos L. Wright is a son of James and Elizabeth (Offiel) Wright, natives respectively of Ohio and Kentucky. James Wright removed, in company with one of his brothers, to Illinois in the pioneer days, and there he remained until 1867, when he came with other members of his family to the new state of Nebraska, where his son Amos L. has located in the preceding year. Here he became a pioneer farmer, though in earlier years he had given much attention to work at the carpenter trade, he and his brother John having built an old-time box bridge across the Sangamon river at Springfield, Illinois, in the pio-

MR. AND MRS. AMOS L. WRIGHT

neer days. James Wright died on his farm in Saline county, Nebraska, at the age of seventy-one years, his wife having preceded him to eternal rest. His father, George Wright, was riding horseback along one of the narrow pioneer roads of Ohio when a falling tree killed both the rider and the horse.

JACOB KLEIN. — The career of this honored pioneer merchant of the city of Beatrice has been significantly characterized by courage, confidence, progressiveness and impregnable integrity of purpose. None has a more secure status as a representative citizen and business man of southeastern Nebraska, and to the people of Gage county his name and achievement are practically as familiar as the name of the county. Aside from being the executive head and the founder of one of the largest and best ordered department stores in this section of the state and having other capitalistic interests of important order, Mr. Klein has been signally loyal and helpful as a public-spirited citizen and as one who has been a force in the furtherance of the civic and material advancement and prosperity of the community in which he has maintained his home for more than forty years and to which he came as an ambitious young man with very limited financial resources but with the fullest measure of determination and resourcefulness. He eminently deserves classification among those self-made men who have distinguished themselves for their ability to master the opposing forces of life and to wrest from the hands of fate a large measure of success and an honorable name. Mr. Klein has not only been the dominating force in the upbuilding of the extensive mercantile business now conducted under the corporate title of Klein's Mercantile Company, but has identified himself also with the development and promotion of other business enterprises of importance, has been the loyal supporter of all measures tending to conserve the general wellbeing of his home city, county and state, and has been called upon to serve in various positions of public trust, including that of member of the state senate.

In the Upper Palatinate of the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, and not far distant from the historic old city of Bingen, on the Rhine, Jacob Klein was born March 31, 1846, — a scion of old and honored families of that section of the German empire, where his paternal grandfather, John Klein, a weaver by trade and vocation, passed his entire life, as did also the maternal grandfather, Conrad Weiser, who gave his allegiance to the great fundamental industry of agriculture. Mr. Klein is a son of Jacob and Margaret (Weiser) Klein, both likewise natives of Bavaria, where each was born in the year 1805. The parents passed the closing years of their lives in Livingston county, Illinois, where the mother's death occurred in 1874 and that of the father in 1879, their marriage having been solemnized in 1832 and both having been earnest communicants of the Lutheran church. Of their five children the subject of this review is the youngest and the other two now living are Charles, who is a resident of Montana, where he is a retired farmer, and Katherine, who is the widow of Louis Moschel and maintains her home in the city of Beatrice.

In the year 1855 Jacob Klein, Senior, immigrated with his family to the United States, and soon after landing in the port of New York city he continued his westward journey and settled in Tazewell county, Illinois. He had incurred an indebtedness of six hundred dollars incidental to transporting the family to America, and thus a double responsibility rested upon him after he had established a home in this country. For the first year he was employed by others, and he then rented a farm from an Englishman who furnished him with all requisite tools and appliances, and he continued his operations on this farm, in Tazewell county, for a period of nine years. His energy and good judgment brought him a full measure of success as an agriculturist, though in his native land he had followed the trade of weaver. Through his operation in the control of the farm mentioned Mr. Klein accumulated a sufficient reserve of money to justify him in purchasing a farm of his own. Under these conditions he bought, at the rate

of twenty-five dollars an acre, a tract of eighty acres in Livingston county, Illinois, and to the improving and cultivating of this homestead he continued to give his attention until the death of his loved and devoted wife, in 1874, when he sold the property to his son, Philip C., with whom he remained until he too passed to the life eternal, about five years later. The son Philip was a resident of Illinois at the time of his death and the other deceased member of the immediate family circle was John, who died when about seventy-nine years of age.

He whose name introduces this review acquired his rudimentary education in his native land and was a lad of about ten years at the time of the family immigration to the United States. He was reared to manhood under the sturdy discipline of the farm and in the meanwhile he profited by the advantages afforded in the schools of Tazewell county, Illinois, his attendance in the same having continued at intervals during a period of three years, the while he was not denied a full quota of strenuous and practical experience in connection with the work of the home farm. Like many another reared under similar conditions, he has rounded out his education through effective self-discipline and through the lessons gained through his long and successful business career, so that he has become a man of broad mental ken and mature judgment. Mr. Klein initiated his independent career as a farmer when he was about twenty-three years of age, and he continued his active alliance with farm industry in Illinois until 1873, when, at the age of twenty-seven years, he came to Nebraska and numbered himself as one of the pioneers of Gage county. His marriage occurred about two years previously and upon coming to this county he established the family home in the small but aspiring little city of Beatrice. Here he forthwith formed a partnership with Charles Moschel and Emil Lang and they engaged in the retail grocery business, under the firm name of J. Klein & Company. Success attended the enterprise and within a few years its scope was enlarged by the addition of departments devoted to dry goods and men's clothing. The partnership alliance continued until 1887, in January of which year the three principals made an equitable division of the business and stock, Mr. Klein at this time taking control of the dry-goods and clothing department of the enterprise. With characteristic energy and good judgment he made himself a leader in anticipating the demands of the public incidental to the development and growth of the county and its judicial center, and finally he developed the large and important general merchandise business which marks the present department store of Klein's Mercantile Company as one of the most metropolitan and efficiently conducted institutions of the kind in this part of the state. For the accommodation of the large and constantly increasing business Mr. Klein erected the large and substantial brick block which bears his name, the building being two stories in height, not including basement, and occupying a ground area twenty-five by one hundred and ten feet in dimensions. Here is conducted under most favorable conditions and arrangement the general department store, and every department is known for efficiency and acceptability of service, so that the substantial enterprise has the firmest of foundations, even as the executive policies attest to the sterling integrity and the progressivness of Mr. Klein, as well as of his sons, who have become his valued coadjutors in the control and management of the important enterprise, — the reputation of the concern constituting its best commercial asset. In 1901 the business was incorporated under the present name, Klein's Mercantile Company, the charter given under the laws of Nebraska designating the capital stock at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The honored founder, as president and general manager of the company, continues as the executive head of the business, his eldest son, Jacob A., who is individually mentioned on other pages, being vice-president of the company; the second son, Frederick K., being secretary and treasurer, and the youngest son, Frank E., likewise being actively associated with the business.

In noting the financial and civic status of

Jacob Klein at the present time it is interesting to record that when he came to Beatrice his available capitalistic resources were summed up in about five hundred dollars. His success has not been an accident but rather the logical result of well applied energy and ability, and his many friends in the community honor him the more for the fact that he has always been an earnest and productive worker. His communal loyalty has led him to make his liberality keep pace with his cumulative prosperity, and thus he has given capitalistic co-operation in the furtherance of other business enterprises. Among his other and noteworthy connections may be mentioned his active and prolific association with the Gage County Agricultural Society, he having been one of the twenty progressive citizens who organized this society.

Well fortified in his convictions pertaining to governmental and economic policies, Mr. Klein has always been found arrayed as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and he has been influential in its councils and campaign activities in this part of the state. He served one term as treasurer of Gage county, has been a valued member of the Beatrice board of education, and the high popular estimate placed upon him was significantly shown when, in 1909, he was elected representative of the Fourteenth district in the state senate. He proved a well poised, sane and vigorous figure in the deliberations and work of the senate and those of the various committees to which he was assigned, and was given the best of popular commendation through his re-election in 1913. He and his family are communicants of the Lutheran church and he takes deep satisfaction in giving to his gracious and popular wife a due mede of credit for the aid she has given him in the furtherance of his success, the while her gentle and kindly personality has gained to her the affectionate regard of all who have come within the sphere of her influence.

In the year 1871 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Klein to Miss Catharine Moschel, who was born in Germany and who came with her widowed mother, Mrs. Margaret (Schantz) Moschel, to America in the year 1865, the father, Christian Moschel, having died in Germany about the year 1854, his vocation having been that of cabinetmaker. The widowed mother brought her five children to the United States and the home was established in Illinois, the mother having there passed the residue of her life, her death having occurred on a farm near Chenoa, McLean county, in 1886. Three of her sons, Louis, Charles, and Daniel, became pioneers of Gage county, Nebraska, where they settled in the '70s, and all became representative citizens of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Klein have four children, and in a preceding paragraph it has been noted that the three sons are actively associated with the business founded by their father. The only daughter, Ida M., remains at the parental home and is a popular assistant to her mother.

HERMAN M. REYNOLDS, M. D.— For all time must Gage county pay a tribute of veneration and honor to the late Dr. Herman Meyer Reynolds, who was one of the foremost pioneer physicians and surgeons of this part of the state, who wielded large and beneficent influence in the furtherance of civic and material development and progress and who was a leader in all movements tending to advance the welfare and growth of the beautiful little city of Beatrice, the metropolis and judicial center of Gage county. He aided in upbuilding Beatrice from a frontier village to its present status as one of the vigorous and important muncipalities of Nebraska, and his was the distinction of being elected the city's first mayor. His life was significantly one of service, was marked by unwavering optimism and abiding human sympathy, and even this succinct record concerning his life and labors can not fail of lesson and incentive. He was one of the best known and most beloved pioneer citizens of Gage county at the time of his death, which occurred on the 26th of April, 1875.

Dr. Reynolds was born at Shelldrake, Sullivan county, New York, on the 15th of April, 1832, and was a scion of one of the old and

honored families of that section of the Empire state. A youth of alert mind and valiant ambition, Dr. Reynolds early determined, after having availed himself of the advantages of the common schools, to prepare himself for the medical profession, and finally he provided ways and means to complete a course in a medical college in the city of Albany, New York. After having received the degree of Doctor of Medicine he engaged in the practice of his profession, and his ability soon gained him recognition, with the result that success attended his earnest efforts in the work of his chosen calling. For two years prior to coming to the west the Doctor was engaged in practice in the city of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and he was one of the leaders in the fine colony that came to Gage county, Nebraska, and located the town site of Beatrice, the county seat. He was thus one of the founders of this city and had the distinction of being not only its pioneer physician and surgeon, but also the first man elected as chief executive of the municipal government of the ambitious little city. In the work of his humane mission Dr. Reynolds spared himself neither mental nor physical effort in the pioneer days, and he rode on horseback over the Nebraska prairies for miles in every direction from Beatrice, to carry relief and solace to those in affliction and distress. He ministered with all of his unselfish zeal and marked ability in the work of his profession and his kindliness and sympathy transcended mere vocation to become an actuating motive for helpfulness. Under these conditions it may well be understood that his name and memory are held in lasting reverence in the community in which he lived and labored to goodly ends. In the attractive brick residence which the Doctor erected at 800 Market street he passed the closing period of his life, and there his venerable widow has maintained her home for more than forty years, the place and the community being endeared to her by the hallowed memories and associations of the past and hers being gracious status as one of the loved pioneer women of Beatrice. In this connection it may consistently be noted that the first home provided for Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds in Beatrice was a pioneer log cabin, the same having been situated at the corner of Fourth and Court streets. Mrs. Reynolds has thus witnessed the development of Beatrice from a frontier hamlet into a populous and prosperous city of twelve thousand inhabitants, and though she has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten she retains in splendid degree her mental and physical vigor and finds that in the gracious evening of her life her lines are "cast in pleasant places," her circle of friends in the community being limited only by that of her acquaintances. Dr. Reynolds was a man of vigorous intellectuality and mature judgment, was well fortified in his views concerning governmental and economic policies, and gave his political allegiance to the Republican party, his religious faith having been that of the Christian church. He and his wife were charter members of the church of this denomination in Beatrice and Mrs. Reynolds is still active in its work.

At Beatrice, Nebraska, on the 20th of October, 1861, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Reynolds to Miss Naomi Barcus, who was born at Covington, Indiana, on the 20th of October, 1841, and who was an infant at the time of the death of her father, Jesse Barcus. Her widowed mother, whose maiden name was Mary Blodgett, later became the wife of Thomas Sherrill, and in 1859 they came to Nebraska and numbered themselves among the earliest settlers of Gage county, where they passed the residue of their lives. Mrs. Reynolds was reared and educated in the old Hoosier state and was about eighteen years of age when she accompanied her mother and stepfather to Gage county, Nebraska, so that it may readily be understood that hers are vivid memories touching the conditions and influences that obtained in the early pioneer days. Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds became the parents of six daughters and one son, two of whom died in infancy; Elsie is the widow of George W. Loeber and maintains her home at Beatrice; Mollie is the wife of George F. Randall, a large rancher in Morrill county, Nebraska, Redington being their postoffice

Eng. by E. G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

J. W. Wright

address; Ruth is the wife of Charles C. Farlow, of Beatrice, and Mr. Farlow is serving, in 1918, as deputy treasurer of Gage county; Miss Josephine is an efficient and popular teacher in the public schools of Beatrice and remains with her widowed mother at the old homestead; and Hermina is the wife of Harry E. Sackett, a representative Gage county lawyear, to whom is accorded mention on other pages of this work.

JOHN W. WRIGHT was a man whose sterling character gave him excellent equipment for being master of his own destiny, and though his financial resources were of the most limited order when he came to Gage county, forty years ago, he so directed his activities as to achieve large and worthy success. He was a pioneer merchant and farmer of this county, commanded the unqualified respect of all who knew him and it is most fitting that in this history be entered a tribute to his memory.

John Wesley Wright was born in Hawkins county, Tennessee, May 27, 1852, and there he was reared and educated. At the age of twenty-four years he drove with team and wagon from Tennessee to Illinois and settled in Macoupin county, where he found employment at farm work, including the cutting of wood, his compensation at the start being only eight dollars a month. The following year was marked by his turning his attention to independent farm enterprise in that county, and there also the ambitious young man, on March 18, 1877, wedded the gracious young woman who was to continue as his devoted companion and helpmeet during the remainder of his earnest and worthy life. In 1878 Mr. Wright made, with team and wagon, the overland trip from Illinois to Gage county, Nebraska, and his wife joined him within a few months thereafter, she having made the journey by railroad. Soon after his arrival in the county Mr. Wright purchased land in Filley township, the farm now owned by John A. Burbank, and with characteristic vigor and resourcefulness he initiated the improvement and development of this place. When the village of Filley was platted Mr. Wright erected one of the first buildings in the new town and assumed the management of one of the first mercantile establishments there opened. Later he purchased the stock and business and for twenty-one years thereafter he there conducted a substantial and prosperous business as a dealer in hardware, agricultural implements, and groceries. After selling his original farm he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Filley township, just outside the corporate limits of the village of the same name, and upon this homestead he erected good buildings and made other improvements of excellent order. Here he became a most successful and progressive exponent of agricultural and live-stock enterprise and he eventually added much to the area of his landed estate, so that he left to his family at his death a valuable farm property of two hundred acres, his widow still remaining on the attractive homestead and having at all times been the popular chatelaine of a pleasant home known for its gracious hospitality.

Mr. Wright was a man well fortified for leadership in community affairs and while he had no desire for political preferment he was a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party and showed his civic loyalty by his efficient service in the office of justice of the peace. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity when he was twenty-one years of age and continued his active affiliation throughout the remainder of his life. He was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to the support of which he contributed liberally and with a high sense of personal stewardship, and his widow likewise is a zealous member.

In the year 1877, as previously intimated, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wright to Miss Ella E. Fetter, who was born and reared in Macoupin county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of Adam and Amelia (McDonald) Fetter, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter in Morgan county, Illinois, where her parents were pioneer settlers. Mr. Fetter became a prosperous far-

mer in Illinois and there he and his wife continued to reside until their death, when well advanced in years. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wright all are living except the last, who died in infancy; Clara is the wife of J. R. Landon; Cora B. is the wife of William B. Little and they reside in the city of Omaha; Charles is a bachelor and remains with his widowed mother, he having active management of the home farm; Minnie is the wife of Elon E. Hill of Omaha; Alice remains at the maternal home, as do also James and Lillie; Otis is married and resides in the village of Filley; Ella is the wife of Guy Steece, a farmer in Logan township; and Marie is the wife of Edward Dobbs, of Logan township.

AARON PALMER. — An indomitable energy that has triumphed over seemingly great obstacles, as well as varied misfortunes, is that which had dominated Aaron Palmer during the varied stages of a remarkably earnest and productive business career in which he has rallied to his cause splendid initiative ability and has made each recurrent stroke of adverse fortune but a spur to renewed effort. Depending entirely upon his own resources he has pressed forward along the line of worthy ambition and that he has arrived at the goal of substantial success and influence in connection with business operations needs no further voucher than the fact that he is now president of the A. Palmer Company, of Beatrice, which conducts the largest and most complete house-furnishing establishment in the entire state of Nebraska, this important enterprise being controlled by himself and his wife, the latter of whom is secretary of the company, even as she has been his devoted and efficient coadjutor throughout the entire period of their ideal marital companionship. Mr. Palmer is widely known through Nebraska as the "Fire King," and this title has been gained through his having purchased and sold a greater number and quantity of stocks of merchandise salvaged from fires than has probably any other one man in Nebraska — in fact the foundation of his success having been laid through this means. The company of which he is now the executive head gives special attention to the buying and selling of bankrupt stocks, fire stocks, first and second hand goods, etc., and a prosperous business has been developed. The extensive and well ordered business establishment of the A. Palmer Company at Beatrice gives twenty-six thousand square feet of floor space in the main sales and display rooms, at 119-123 North Fifth avenue, and in the company's warehouse and manufacturing building, at 417 Ella street, are utilized twelve thousand seven hundred and fifty square feet of floor space. The operations of the company are based on a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, and of this the stock has been issued to the amount of thirty-one thousand dollars. The modern storage building owned and occupied by the company is a four-story structure with double walls and is moisture-proof. All save a few shares of the stock of the company are owned by Mr. Palmer and his wife.

Aaron Palmer, known and honored as one of the most substantial and progressive business men of southeastern Nebraska and as a citizen of loyalty and liberality, has the distinction of being a native of Nebraska and a scion of a family that was here founded in the early territorial days. He was born in the old frontier town of Brownville, Nemaha county, this state, on the 9th of February, 1857 — a decade prior to the admission of the state to the Union — and he is a son of James and Elizabeth (Bell) Palmer, the former of whom was born in Missouri and the latter in Illinois, her mother having been a childhood schoolmate of Abraham Lincoln. James Palmer came from Missouri to Nebraska in 1856 and became one of the early settlers at Brownville, in which vicinity he began the development of a small farm, besides raising various garden products that found ready demand in the frontier settlement. He died at Brownville when he was but forty years of age, leaving his wife to care for their seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest. Mrs. Palmer bravely faced

the responsibilities that devolved upon her and in providing for her fatherless children manifested the utmost self-abnegation and maternal solicitude. She continued to reside in Brownville until her death and was one of the revered pioneer women of Nebraska, her death having occurred when she was about seventy-two years of age.

Reared in his native town to adult age, Aaron Palmer was about twenty-three years old at the time of his father's death, and as the eldest of the seven children, he applied himself earnestly to aiding his mother in caring for and rearing the younger children, to the support of whom he continued to contribute until they were old enough to assume individual responsibility for their own maintenance. Under such conditions it may readily be understood that the early educational training of Aaron Palmer was limited to a somewhat irregular and desultory attendance in the pioneer schools at Brownville, but his alert and receptive mind later enabled him to profit largely through the lessons learned under the preceptorship of that wisest of all head-masters, experience. In aiding in the support of the family he applied himself to whatever work he could obtain, and finally he learned the trade of baker, in a modest bakery at Brownville. With this line of occupation he there continued his association until 1887, when he came to Beatrice and opened a bakery and restaurant. He had no available capital and thus initiated this enterprise on credit. The venture proved a failure, notwithstanding his earnest and assiduous efforts, and within a year he came to involuntary liquidation, with an indebtedness of about eighteen hundred dollars. Thus temporarily astride the back of adversity, Mr. Palmer did not falter in courage or determination, and in order to provide for his family and rid himself of the burden of debt he gained appointment to the position of city mail carrier in Beatrice, in which capacity he continued to give effective service for eleven years, within which he brought himself triumphantly out of debt and also accumulated a modest reserve of sixteen hundred dollars. In 1894 the general merchandise establishment of Begole & Van Arsdale, of Beatrice, was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Palmer purchased the damaged goods salvaged from the fire, though he had only the sixteen hundred dollars to apply on the purchase price. He borrowed the balance required and in the sale of this stock of merchandise he made a profit of about two thousand dollars. Since that time he has continued to deal extensively in bankrupt and fire stocks, in which field of enterprise he has developed from a small inception a business that is now the largest of the kind in Nebraska. It has been consistently stated that in the Palmer establishment may be purchased anything from a needle to a piano, and the display of merchandise includes clothing, dry goods, hardware, stoves, and general house furnishings of every description.

Mr. Palmer has had no communion with apathy or idleness, has been a productive worker and has been found busily at work at all stages of his career. Essentially a business man, he has had neither time nor desire to enter the turbulence of practical politics or to seek public office, though he is liberal and public-spirited in his civic attitude and gives staunch support to the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor. Widely known throughout this section of the state, he has by his earnest and honest endeavors entrenched himself firmly in popular confidence and esteem, and this has contributed much to the success of his present important business enterprise. In the Masonic fraternity he has completed the circle of the York Rite, his maximum affiliation being with Beatrice commandery of Knights Templars, besides which he holds membership in the adjunct Masonic organization, the Mystic Shrine.

On the 11th of January, 1879, was officially recorded the marriage of Mr. Palmer to Miss Della Furlow, who was born in the state of Maine, but who was a child at the time of her parents' removal to Nebraska, where she was reared and educated, her father having been one of the pioneer settlers of Nemaha county. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have no children, but in

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM C. MOORE

their attractive home they delight to extend welcome and entertainment to the young folk of the community as well as to the friends of their own generation. Mrs. Palmer is an active member of the Presbyterian church of Beatrice, and is affiliated with the representative Masonic subsidiary body known as the Order of the Eastern Star.

WILLIAM C. MOORE. — In Sections 35 and 36, Holt township, Mr. Moore and his wife are the owners of a fine rural estate of three hundred and twenty acres, and Mr. Moore, whose farm experience has touched various sections of Nebraska, looks upon Gage county as one of the best and most attractive districts for the successful prosecution of agricultural and live stock industry that can be found within the limits of this progressive state. He has made his farm property one specially notable for thrift and good management and is essentially one of the representative citizens and substantial farmers of Holt township.

Mr. Moore was born at Waterloo, Blackhawk county, Iowa, March 27, 1865, being the youngest in a family of ten children, of whom eight attained to maturity. He is a son of Jacob and Catherine (Waltz) Moore, the former of whom was born in Germany, March 27, 1821, and the latter of whom was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, August 28, 1821. Jacob Moore was about eleven years old when he accompanied his parents on their immigration to America, and the family home was established in Pennsylvania, where he was reared to adult age and where his marriage was solemnized. In 1857, within a short time after their marriage, Mr. Moore and his wife left the old Keystone state and made their way to Green county, Wisconsin, both having walked a large part of the intervening distance. He became a pioneer farmer in that county, where he remained until about 1864, when he removed to Blackhawk county, Iowa, where he repeated his pioneer experience as an agriculturist. One of his sons, John W., went forth as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war: he enlisted in a Wisconsin volunteer regiment of infantry and took part in many engagements marking the progress of the conflict between the north and the south, he having been with Sherman on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea. This honored veteran of the Civil war is now venerable in years and maintains his home in Newburg, Oregon. Jacob Moore became a farmer in Iowa, where he remained until 1874, when he came to Nebraska, the closing period of his life having been passed in Hamilton county, this state, where he died March 27, 1877. He had been an invalid for eight years. A man of sterling character and indefatigable industry, he had the distinction of being a pioneer in each of three different states, and he lived a righteous and upright life, so that he commanded unqualified popular esteem. His widow long survived him and was a resident of Newburg, Oregon, at the time of her death, in June, 1906. Both were reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church but after their removal they became members of the Dunkard church, with which they continued to be affiliated during the remainder of their lives.

William C. Moore gained his preliminary education in the schools of Iowa and was nine years of age when his parents numbered themselves among the pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he continued to attend school until he was fifteen years of age. When eleven years of age he received an injury that compelled him to abandon his school work for a year, and as a youth he turned his attention to farm work, his initial experience as a farm hand having been gained when he was a lad of fifteen years. At the age of nineteen years he rented land in Hamilton county, where he conducted independent farm operations for the ensuing four years. He then established the first dray line at Stockham. He later became the owner of a homestead farm in the southern part of Lincoln county, and after selling this property, in 1889, he became associated with his brother John W. in purchasing of Daniel and William Nicewonger a general merchandise store and business in the village of Pickrell, Gage county. In 1893 the subject

of this review sold his interest in the business to his brother and resumed his active association with farm enterprise, by renting a farm located to the east of Pickrell, in Holt township. In 1895 he purchased forty acres in Section 23 of that township, for a consideration of eleven hundred dollars, and about six years later he sold the property for two thousand dollars. In 1899 Mr. Moore purchased the Jersey Smith farm of eighty acres, and this constitutes an integral part of his now large and admirably improved landed estate in Holt township. Energy, progressiveness, and correct business policies have enabled Mr. Moore to achieve unqualified success in the different departments of farm industry and he is one of the substantial and influential citizens of Holt township, where he has been called upon to serve in various public offices of minor order and where he is now a director of the school board for District No. 57, his political allegiance being given to the Republican party and he and his wife being active members of the United Brethren church.

February, 1891, recorded the marriage of Mr. Moore to Miss Mary Lewis, who was born in Holt township, this county, November 8, 1870, a daughter of John E. and Sarah M. (Williams) Lewis, the former a native of Wales and the latter of the state of New York. Mr. Lewis became a pioneer of the state of Wisconsin, where he remained until 1868, when he came to the new state of Nebraska and became one of the earliest settlers in Holt township, Gage county, where he reclaimed and improved a valuable farm property and where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives as honored pioneer citizens of the county. Mr. Lewis died May 2, 1913, at the age of seventy-two years, his wife having passed away February 17, 1905, at the age of fifty-two years. Of their eight children all are living except one, only two of the number being residents of Gage county and the others maintaining their residence in Scotts Bluff county. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Moore the following brief record is given: John is associated with his father in the management of the home farm; Eva, who was graduated in the high school at Beatrice, is a successful and popular teacher in the district schools of the county; Walter assists in the work of the home farm; Myrtle likewise was graduated in the Beatrice high school and is an efficient teacher in the district schools of her native county; Sarah is a member of the class of 1919 in the Beatrice high school; Edward and George remain at the parental home; and one son died in infancy.

Mr. Moore has been in the most significant sense the builder of the sturdy ladder on which he has risen to the plane of independence and worthy prosperity, and he is today not only the owner of a valuable landed estate and a stockholder in the farmers' grain elevator at Pickrell but is also entirely free from indebtedness. He had made good improvements on his farm property and has availed himself of the most modern farm machinery and accessories, including an elevator for the transferring of the various grain products raised on his broad and fertile acres. In short, he is a successful exponent of modern and scientific farm enterprise.

THE DOLE FLORAL COMPANY. — In the year 1916 was celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of one of the large, important, and interesting industrial enterprises of Beatrice and Gage county, that of the Dole Floral Company, and this publication exercises a consistent function when it gives special recognition to this representative corporation, for in the upbuilding of its business has been exemplified the splendid energy and initiative ability of its honored founder, Mrs. Sophia H. Dole, who, while representing all of gracious womanhood, has proved herself one of the most successful business women of Nebraska, has made of her individual success a medium of leverage for the uplifting of civic and material prosperity in her home city and county, the while she has ever retained an inviolable place in the affectionate regard of the community in which she has lived and labored to goodly ends. Of the inception and growth of the business founded by this representative exponent of business

enterprise in the city of Beatrice, a brief, pertinent, and interesting record was given in the anniversary catalogue issued by the Dole Floral Company in 1916, and it is pleasing to perpetuate in more enduring form this record:

"In the spring of 1891 Mrs. Sophia H. Dole, with an investment of one dollar for flower pots and seventy-five cents for seeds, and with a hot-bed sash for a greenhouse, began the ornamental plant business at 617 Mary street. In the autumn of the same year a small greenhouse was built. The next year Josiah G. Dole and his two sons, Edward W. and Walter A., became associated with Mrs. Dole, under the firm name of S. H. Dole & Sons, and thereafter the greenhouse was enlarged from year to year until the location was outgrown. In 1898 three acres of land were leased and a new range of greenhouses was built at 609 Mary street. The business was incorporated in 1904, under the title of the Dole Floral Company. Capital stock was offered for sale and five acres of land were purchased by the company at the corner of Fifth and Hoyt streets. On this specially eligible site was erected in 1905 the present range of greenhouses, which has since been notably enlarged, in consonance with the constantly increasing demands placed upon the company in connection with its growing trade. The result is that at the present time the company has twenty-five thousand feet of glass, besides well equipped work and storage rooms.

"Our first down-town salesroom occupied a little building that was only five by seven feet in dimensions, at 114 North Fifth street. In 1908 the company purchased a lot at 518 Ella street, and in the following year there was erected on this site the present Dole building, a substantial brick structure of two stories. The building has since been enlarged and is now equipped with a large and modern case for the preservation of cut flowers and with an artificial ice refrigerating plant."

In a progressive policy that implies the giving of thoroughly metropolitan service the Dole Floral Company has equipped its attractive salesrooms with the most modern appointments and facilities, and the establishment is a source of pride to the city of Beatrice and its people. The large display cases in which the cut flowers are preserved after being taken from the greenhouses have cold air supplied from the company's artificial ice plant, which is operated by electricity and which has a capacity for the production of four tons of ice every twenty-four hours. The company has an attractive automobile delivery car, which is utilized not only in delivering floral products to patrons in Beatrice but also in transporting fresh-cut flowers from the greenhouses each morning, for display and sale at the down-town store. The propagating facilities controlled by the company are of the most approved order and the concern offers roses, carnations, sweet peas, and all other of the popular varieties of flowers, the same being grown entirely at the conservatories of the company. Large shipments are made to other cities and many towns in this section of the state, and demands come also from points even farther removed. The company gives the best of service in the supplying of cut flowers, bedding plants, house plants, and bulbs. Special attention is given also to the producing of artistic floral designs for decorative and funeral purposes, and the company maintains a department for the handling of the finest varieties of gold fish.

The Dole Floral Company now bases its operations on a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, and the personnel of its executive corps is as here noted: Edward W. Dole, president; Victor Ryhd, secretary; and George M. Johnson, treasurer and manager. Of each of these officers more specific mention is made on other pages of this volume, and similar recognition is given also to the popular founder of the enterprise, Mrs. Sophia H. Dole.

CHARLES F. BONHAM was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Ellis, a thriving village of Gage county, and has been cashier of this well ordered institution since 1909, his administration having proved potent in the upbuilding of the substantial business of the bank.

Mr. Bonham was born in Andrew county,

Missouri, December 7, 1871, and is a son of William and Mary Ann (Nicholson) Bonham, of whose four children he was the third in order of birth, Eunice, the firstborn, having been about three years of age at the time of her death; William B. died at the age of twelve years; and Clarence L. is now engaged in the banking business at Ayr, Adams county. William Bonham was born near the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1841, a scion of a sterling pioneer family of that state. His parents, David and Rebecca (Weaver) Bonham, were natives respectively of England and Wisconsin, and from the Badger state they finally removed to Missouri, making the long overland journey in a covered wagon that was drawn by a mule and a blind horse, besides which they had an ox team. David Bonham engaged in farming in Missouri and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. They became the parents of eight children and four of their sons were soldiers of the Union in the Civil war — David, Jr., Robert, John, and James — all now deceased.

William Bonham became a substantial farmer and influential citizen of Andrew county, Missouri, and later was engaged in farming in Gentry county, that state, where for a number of years he was engaged also in the agricultural-implement business, at King City. He came to Nebraska about the year 1892 and he reclaimed and developed a good farm in Furnas county, where he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred in 1902. His widow, who was born in Indiana, in 1846, and whose death occurred in 1906, was a daughter of John F. Nicholson, who was a gallant soldier of the Union in the Civil war. William Bonham and his wife were most zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he gave his support to the Republican party.

Charles F. Bonham was reared on the farm of his father in Missouri and after having profited duly by the advantages of the district schools he continued his studies in the village schools of King City until he had completed the work of the tenth grade. Later he completed a commercial course in Wesleyan College, at Cameron, Missouri, and after his graduation he became bookkeeper for his father, who was then engaged in the implement business at King City. In 1892 he resumed his association with farm enterprise in his native state and in 1894 he accompanied his parents to Furnas county, Nebraska, where he was engaged in farming until 1909, when he came to Gage county and became cashier of the State Bank of Ellis, of which position he has since continued the efficient and popular incumbent. This bank was organized in 1907 by his brother Clarence and eight representative farmers of this section of the county, and in the general record concerning the banking interests of the county, on other pages, due mention is made of this prosperous institution, of which Temple E. Pierce is president and Albert C. Pefferman, vice-president.

Mr. Bonham takes vital interest in all things touching the wellbeing and advancement of his home village and county, is a Republican in his political allegiance, is affiliated with the local organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Ellis, of which he is serving as a steward in 1917-1918. He is the owner of village property in Ellis, including his pleasant home, and also has a well improved farm property of three hundred and twenty acres near Wilsonville, Furnas county.

January 7, 1893, recorded the marriage of Mr. Bonham to Miss Elsie Timmons, who was born in the state of Illinois, a daughter of Ephraim Timmons, and of this union have been born three children: Lee D. is assistant cashier of the Union State Bank in the city of Beatrice; Ada died at the age of two years; and Russell died in 1915, at the age of seven years.

ARNOTT D. McCANDLESS. — Each successive stage of a life that has been worthily lived bears its full measure of compensation, and the man who has passed life's meridian, who has stored up the lessons of rich

ARNOTT D. MCCANDLESS

and varied experience, and who has wrought wisely, justly, and effectively, must find each successive year thereafter radiant in personal contentment and gracious in memories. Such a sane, direct, and productive life has been that of Arnott Duncan McCandless, who is one of the representative members of the bar of Gage county and whose buoyant optimism has enabled him to get the best out of life in its varied relations. He is a writer of exceptional talent and another dominating attribute of his makeup is his love for the vital sports afield and afloat, in which domain of recreation he has gained distinct prestige. He is engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Wymore and his status as a citizen, a lawyer, and as a genial and popular man makes it specially pleasing to accord him recognition in this history.

Mr. McCandless is of staunch Scotch ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides, as the respective names fully indicate. He was born on a farm six miles east of Macomb, McDonough county, Illinois, on the 27th of August, 1849, and is a son of William Wallace McCandless and Sarah (Duncan) McCandless, both natives of Pennsylvania. A literal and fully substantiated fact pertinent to the McCandless family is singularly in consonance with a statement all too tritely made concerning the founding of other families in America. That is, the original progenitors of the McCandless family in this country were the proverbial three brothers, but it has been clearly established that one of the number established a home in Pennsylvania, that another located in the south and that the third became a seafaring man. From the one who settled in the old Keystone state the subject of this review is descended.

Arnott D. McCandless was five years old when his parents removed from McDonough county, Illinois, and settled on a farm one-half mile southwest of Aledo, Mercer county, and he was a lad of about thirteen years when his loyal and patriotic father went forth to battle for the nation's integrity as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. On the 14th of August, 1862, William W. McCandless enlisted as a private in Company H, Eighty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his command he set forth from Quincy, Illinois, marched across Kentucky and on to Nashville, Tennessee, the soldiers of his regiment sleeping at night under the open sky, as they were not provided with tents. Mr. McCandless was destined soon to sacrifice his life in the righteous cause, for he was killed at the battle of Stone River, on the 31st of December, 1862, little more than four months after he had enlisted. He had become the father of six children, and his widow and two of her married daughters eventually came to Nebraska and settled in Box Butte county. While visiting at the home of her son Arnott D., of this review, at Wymore, the widowed mother was summoned to eternal rest, her death having occurred in 1910, at which time she was eighty-eight years of age.

Arnott Duncan McCandless attended the district schools in Mercer county, Illinois, and thereafter attended for two years a Presbyterian select school in that state. He was at this time about eleven years old and thereafter he attended school only three months until after he had attained to his legal majority. The death of his father compelled him to assume heavy responsibilities when he was but a boy, and through his application to farm work he aided in the support of his mother and the other members of the family. His insistent determination to broaden his education led him to take his Latin grammar into the field with him, in order that he might apply himself to study during his all too few leisure moments. In the meanwhile his advancement had been such that he proved himself a successful teacher during four months of pedagogic service in the district schools of his native state.

Soon after reaching his legal majority Mr. McCandless entered the law office of Isaac N. Bassett, a leading lawyer at Aledo, Illinois, and, at a stipend of sixteen dollars and seventy-five cents a month, he here took charge of a set of abstract books, the while he vigorously applied himself to the study of law. In 1874 he had so effectively absorbed and as-

similated the science of jurisprudence that he was admitted to the Illinois bar, at a session of the supreme court of the state held at Ottawa. In 1875 Mr. McCandless went to the new town of Creston, Iowa, and became one of its pioneer lawyers. There he built up a substantial practice and there he continued his professional activities until 1882, when he again evidenced his predilection for being in at the start of things in a new town, as he cast in his fortunes with the village of Wymore, Gage county, Nebraska, a place that had been founded about one year previously. A man of vigorous thought and action, he proved a staunch force in furthering civic and material development and progress at Wymore, and he has continued as one of the valued and public-spirited citizens of this thriving little city, even as he has been recognized as one of the able and representative members of the bar of the county. For fifteen years after their marriage Mr. McCandless and his wife kept their textbooks constantly at hand in their home and devoted themselves earnestly to study and reading, vying with each other in enthusiasm for advancement along educational lines.

In 1873 Mr. McCandless wedded Miss Gertrude Cabeen, who was born at Keithsburg, Illinois, a daughter of Richard C. Cabeen, an early settler and influential citizen of Mercer county, that state. Mr. and Mrs. McCandless have no children, but their devoted companionship during the long years has been of ideal order — intensified, as it were, by their having had no child to divide even measurably their interests.

In politics, as in other matters of vital importance, Mr. McCandless thinks and acts for himself, and he has not been constrained by strict partisan dictates. In his home village he is affiliated with Wymore Lodge, No. 104, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons; Hiram Chapter, No. 28, Royal Arch Masons; and Cypress Council, No. 22, Royal and Select Masters.

For many years prior to the death of his loved mother Mr. McCandless made regular visits to her and his two sisters, in Box Butte county, and incidentally he made interesting hunting expeditions in Cherry county. As he says, he "loves to sleep out on the sand hills, with only a blanket for protection, to breathe the air no one else ever breathed, and to determine the time of the night by observing the position of the Great Dipper." Along literary lines Mr. McCandless has gained no little repute by reason of the specially original and interesting articles which he has contributed to the periodical known as "Forest and Stream," his articles having been entitled "Days in Cherry County" and "Boyhood Days in Illinois." These articles have attracted wide attention on the part of devotees of outdoor sport, and Mr. McCandless has not only received letters of marked appreciation from the editor of "Forest and Stream," but they have led also to his being called upon to act as escort to wealthy and influential sportsmen in expeditions in western Nebraska. Among such millionaire sportsmen with whom Mr. McCandless has been thus pleasantly associated may be mentioned Mr. Wilbur, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Liles, of Aurora, Missouri. Mr. McCandless is an expert shot and has made splendid record at the traps, in which connection he has come in close competition with Thomas Marshall, of Keithsburg, Illinois, the two having become acquainted when they were boys.

Even this brief article indicates the broad mental grasp of Mr. McCandless and shows that while he has concentrated and won success in his profession he has had appreciation of other things that go to make up the full and complete life, and that he has made the passing years count not only in achievement but also in giving the benefices of happiness and contentment.

JOHN STROUGH. — In the career of the late John Strough, who was a resident of Gage county for more than a score of years, success and honor were inseparable, and he made his life count for good in its every relation. His sudden death, as the result of heart disease, occurred at his home in the city of Beatrice, November 23, 1917, he having been stricken while engaged in his customary eve-

ning work about the home, at 1423 High street.

Mr. Strough was born in Henry county, Indiana, on the 28th of January, 1844, and was a son of John and Sarah (Miller) Strough, who reared to years of maturity a family of eleven children. John Strough, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, in the year 1808, and in the earlier part of his career he followed the trade of tailor. As a young man he went to the historic old state of Virginia, and later he numbered himself among the pioneers of Henry county, Indiana, where he became a prosperous farmer and where his death occurred on the 20th of May, 1863. His wife was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in which state she was reared and educated, and there their marriage was solemnized, her father, George Miller, having been a native of Pennsylvania: she was born about the year 1835 and passed to eternal rest about 1887, her first three children having been born in Virginia, prior to the family removal to Indiana, where she continued to reside until her death.

The subject of this memoir was reared on the old homestead farm in Indiana and acquired his early education in the pioneer schools of Henry county, that state. At the time of the Civil war he gave efficient service as a soldier in an Indiana volunteer regiment, and his service covered practically the entire period of the conflict between the North and the South. In his native state his marriage was solemnized in 1867, and in 1870 he removed with his family to Holt county, Missouri, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, near the village of Craig. There he continued his successful activities as a farmer until 1890, when he and his wife established their home in Gage county, Nebraska, after he had disposed of his farm in Missouri. Upon coming to Gage county Mr. Strough purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 33, Holt township, and, with his progressive policies and mature judgment he there proved notably successful in his farm enterprise, the while he made excellent improvements on the homestead. He remained on the farm until 1908, when he retired from active labors and removed with his devoted wife to the city of Beatrice, where he passed the residue of his life, secure in the high regard of all who knew him.

Mr. Strough was well fortified in his convictions concerning governmental policies and was a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party. He took deep interest in community affairs and while living on his Gage county farm he served as a member of the school board of his district. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church and his widow holds membership in the Congregational church of Beatrice.

In the year 1867 Mr. Strough wedded Miss Sarah Ann Bowers, who was born in Henry county, Indiana, April 14, 1849, a daughter of George and Lydia (Weane) Bowers, both natives of Rockingham county, Virginia, where the former was born in the year 1819 and the latter on the 9th of August, 1831. Upon his removal to Indiana, Mr. Bowers became a pioneer of Henry county, and there he became a substantial farmer and influential citizen of his community. He was one of the venerable pioneer citizens of the county at the time of his death, in 1891, at the age of seventy-two years, and his widow, who attained to the age of eighty-one years, was a resident of Henry county, Indiana, at the time of her death, in 1908. Since the death of her honored husband Mrs. Strough has continued to reside in the attractive home which he provided upon their removal to Beatrice. In conclusion is given brief record concerning their children, eleven having been born to them and two of the number having died in infancy: Laura is the wife of Giles Laughlin and they reside near Sheridan, Arkansas; Mary B. is the wife of Thomas Harding, a prosperous farmer of Holt township, Gage county, Nebraska; Joseph Leonard resides in Beatrice, this county, where he operates a garage; Dora E. is the wife of John Coonley, who is engaged in the grocery business in West Beatrice; Lloyd L., who owns and resides upon his father's old home farm in Holt township, is individually mentioned

on other pages of this volume; Rufus F. is engaged in the oil business in the city of Beatrice; Jesse F. is a resident of Ottumwa, Iowa; and Nona E. is the wife of William Sherwood, a prosperous farmer in Logan township.

ANDREW J. REEDY. — In nearly every village in the United States are to be found men who fought that our nation might remain an indissoluble union, and one of such men is Mr. Reedy, of Blue Springs, this county.

Andrew Jackson Reedy was born in Morgan county, Indiana, January 1, 1839, and is a son of William and Nancy (Cannedy) Reedy, the former born in Ireland and the latter in Scotland; they migrated to West Virginia with their respective parents and in that state their marriage occurred. With hearts full of hope and courage they traversed the wilds of Ohio and crossed over into Indiana, where they cleared a space for their rude log cabin and where William Reedy became a pioneer farmer. Sons and daughters grew up around them, and they became the parents of a fine family of sixteen children. Three of this large family are now living; George Reedy, a Civil war veteran, is living retired at Nebraska City, Nebraska; Polly, widow of John Busha, resides at Council Bluffs, Iowa; and Andrew J. Reedy is the subject of this sketch. In Morgan county, Indiana, the mother of these children passed to the life eternal. Her husband later contracted a second marriage and by this union six children were born. The latter years of the life of William Reedy were spent in Oregon, where his death occurred. He was a Douglas Democrat in politics and was a captain in the Mexican war.

The educational advantages that the times afforded in the boyhood of Andrew J. Reedy were very meager, but such as they were he profited by these. When a youth of seventeen years he went to Missouri to farm and was called from the plowing of his land to take up arms for his country. He was in the service for a few months with the contingent from Harrison county, Missouri, but soon enlisted with Missouri cavalry, from Gentry county, in which command he served two years, two months, and seven days. He participated in the vigorous action incidental to the historic Price raids, fighting every day against General Price from the Ozarks to Fort Scott. In 1863 he was in the raid for Quantrell, and one time was taken prisoner by the rebels, but he made his escape from them.

After the war Mr. Reedy went back to the peaceful occupation of tilling the soil in Missouri. It was here that he married Sarah Ann Lowe, who has been his faithful companion all of these years. She has borne him twelve children, ten of whom are living, as follows: Andrew lives at Blue Springs; Florence first married O. T. Randall and is now the wife of Samuel Price, a farmer near Kansas City, Kansas; William resides at Blue Springs, Daniel in Iowa, and Alonzo at Lincoln, Nebraska; Luther is in the military service of the United States as a member of a machine gun company; Lucy, widow of Fred Stratford, is now employed in Palmer's store at Beatrice; Salome, widow of George Densmore, is living in Lincoln; Mary is the wife of John Herman, of Wymore; and Harry is in the war service of the United States.

Mr. Reedy farmed in Missouri until 1878, when he went to Kansas, and in 1886 he came to Gage county, where he continued farming until his retirement to Blue Springs twenty years ago. In politics Mr. Reedy has voted with the Republican party. He is a member of the Rawlins Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Beatrice, and is one of the valued members of the community in which he has long resided, he having given many useful years to agricultural industry.

FREDERICK W. MESSMORE. — In the year that marked the semi-centennial of the admission of Nebraska as one of the sovereign states of the Union, Gage county numbered as one of its most efficient and valued officials Frederick W. Messmore, who is still serving as county attorney and who has the further distinction of being one of the youngest men

FREDERICK W. MESSMORE

to be the incumbent of such office in the entire state. He is making a splendid record as a public prosecutor and through his official activities is enhancing his reputation and is solidifying his status as one of the representative members of the bar of Gage county.

Mr. Messmore was born in Boone county, Iowa, on the 11th of July, 1889, and is a son of H. A. and Clara J. (Davidson) Messmore. both of whom likewise are natives of the Hawkeye state, where the respective families were founded in the early pioneer days. H. A. Messmore was reared and educated in Iowa and there became actively identified with railway operations, as a conductor on the line of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. About the year 1907 he removed with his family to Nebraska and established his residence at Randolph, Cedar county, where he successfully conducted a hotel, later continuing in the same line of enterprise in turn at Laurel, that county; Geneva, Fillmore county; and Nelson, Nuckolls county. In 1915 he and his wife established their home at Beatrice, and here it is his intention again to engage in the hotel business within the near future. Mr. Messmore is unwavering in his allegiance to the Democratic party, he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church, and in the time-honored Masonic fraternity he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, besides being affiliated also with the Mystic Shrine. Of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Messmore, the subject of this review is the younger of the two now living, and Sylvia is the wife of T. O. Hester, a banker at Wiota, Cass county, Iowa.

The preliminary educational discipline of Frederick W. Messmore was acquired principally in the public schools of the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he completed the curriculum of the high school and also took a course in the Northwestern Business and Normal College. After his graduation in the same he followed the trend of his ambition and well formulated plans by enrolling himself as a student in the Creighton Law School, in the city of Omaha. In this well ordered institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1912, and his admission to the Nebraska bar was virtually coincident with his reception of the degree of Bachelor of Laws. In 1913 Mr. Messmore entered, with characteristic vigor and earnestness, upon his professional novitiate, and he was favored in being at this time able to associate himself with General L. W. Colby, of Beatrice, one of the leading members of the Gage county bar. He maintained this alliance until his election to the office of county attorney, in 1914, and the estimate placed upon his administration of the affairs of this important office was unequivocally shown in his reëlection in 1916.

Mr. Messmore is a most vital and effective advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor and is one of the influential young men in its councils in his home county. Mr. Messmore is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the Delta Theta Phi college fraternity, and the Modern Woodmen of America, in which last mentioned organization he is past worthy advisor. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In April, 1913, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Messmore to Miss Jennie Frances Saxe, who was born at Belden, Cedar county, Nebraska, a daughter of Allison and Frances (Boughn) Saxe, and she was reared in the home of her mother's uncle, Zack Boughn, who was one of the pioneer settlers of this state. Mr. and Mrs. Messmore have no children.

FRANK OVERBECK has been a resident of Gage county for nearly two score years and through his able and vigorous activities as a farmer he has achieved substantial prosperity. He is the owner of a well improved landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Section 16, Holt township, and here he is now living virtually retired, his two sons having the active management of the farm property.

Mr. Overbeck was born in Prussia, Germany, July 26, 1841, a son of Frederick and Lizzie (Teisenbrink) Overbeck, who passed

their entire lives in their native land. Frank Overbeck was reared and educated in Germany and there gained his initial experience in connection with farm industry. In May, 1882, he came to the United States and landed in the port of New York city. Shortly afterward he came to Nebraska and established his residence in Gage county, where he found employment as a farm workman. He continued to be thus engaged about five years and then engaged in farming in an independent way. He was encouraged to take this course by his friend Frederick Pohlman, who came to the farm on which Mr. Overbeck was at the time employed and made inquiry as to the amount of money the latter had available. Mr. Overbeck stated in reply that he had saved three hundred and twenty-five dollars, and Mr. Pohlman then said that he would lend him an additional one hundred dollars and that with the combined sum he could find him a farm that he could rent. Preparations were made by the two friends going to Dewitt, where Mr. Overbeck purchased a team of horses and the required agricultural implements, he having given his note for the purchase price of the team. He then rented the farm of John H. Steinmeyer, who established himself in the grain and elevator business at Dewitt, and on this farm Mr. Overbeck continued operations two years. He then purchased a Scully lease of land in Hanover township, and there he continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower until he purchased his present homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which but little improvement had been made at the time. He has developed his farm until it is now one of the model places of Holt township, the additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres having been purchased somewhat later and the farm being all in one body. Mr. Overbeck has erected good farm buildings and each of his sons has an attractive house on the half-section of land which has been under their effective management since their father retired from the labors that were so long his portion. Mr. Overbeck is a Republican in politics and is a communicant of the Lutheran church, as are also the members of his family.

As a young man Mr. Overbeck wedded Miss Caroline Stolde, who was born and reared in Germany and who there passed her entire life, her death having occurred in 1882, and she having been survived by four children. In the same year Mr. Overbeck came to America with three of his children, Henry, the eldest of the four having come to this country a short time previously, and being now a resident of Jefferson county, Nebraska; Lizzie is the wife of Charles Gerhardt, of Beatrice; Frederick is a prosperous farmer in Hanover township; and Charles is engaged in the real-estate business in the city of Beatrice.

Prior to coming to the United States Mr. Overbeck contracted a second marriage, with Miss Lizzie Hansjurgen, who was born in the year 1853, and whose death occurred April 13, 1913. Of the eleven children of this union six are living: William is a successful farmer in Hanover township; Frank is associated in the operation of the home farm of his father; Ernest is engaged in farm enterprise in Holt township; John is the other son who farms a portion of his father's place; Herman is a farmer in Nemaha township; and Edwin is engaged in farming in Saline county.

CHARLES M. MURDOCK, of Wymore, is not only one of the honored pioneer citizens of Gage county, but also a representative of a family whose name is one of singular and significant prominence in connection with the early annals of Nebraska, the subject of this review having gained wide and varied experience in connection with life on the frontier and his noble father having been one of the early missionaries to the Indians in Nebraska. A wealth of interesting data may be gleaned concerning this family, and the record cannot fail of enduring historical interest.

Charles M. Murdock was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, August 29, 1843, and is a son of Rev. Daniel A. and Prudence L. (Smith) Murdock, both likewise natives of the old Keystone state. Rev. Daniel A. Murdock received a liberal education and as a

young man he entered the ministry of the Presbyterian church. His marriage to Miss Prudence L. Smith was solemnized April 6, 1841, and concerning their nine children the following brief record may be entered: Lysander B. was born March 24, 1842, and died January 10, 1858; Charles M., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Mary F. was born August 25, 1845, and her death occurred December 5, 1863; Alonzo D. was born November 11, 1847; Bashford E. W. was born May 11, 1850, and died July 24, 1888; Alfaretta L. was born September 22, 1852; Dualla R. was born October 2, 1854, and her death occurred June 25, 1908; Effie T. was born June 30, 1858, and her death occurred March 19, 1864; and Daniel A., Jr., was born Januar 18, 1861.

The following specially interesting record is taken in large part from an admirable account prepared by Charles M. Murdock, to whom this sketch is dedicated. In the spring of 1853 Rev. Daniel A. Murdock removed with his family to the pioneer wilds of Iowa and established a home near Bloomfield, Davis county, but removal was soon afterward made to the vicinity of Holleyville, Page county. In September, 1856, Mr. Murdock and his wife, in company with their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, drove overland in covered wagons from Page county, Iowa, into the Territory of Nebraska, and they decided to locate in Richardson county, near the present village of Stell. This sturdy pioneer clergyman purchased in that locality a tract of land, and within a short time thereafter he returned to his home in Iowa. In the same year he was requested by the Presbyterian Missionary Society, of New York city, to accept the position of missionary to the Otoe and Missouri tribes of Indians in Nebraska and Kansas, and he accepted this responsible post. On the 7th of April, 1857, in company with his wife and their seven children, Rev. Daniel A. Murdock left Page county, Iowa, with teams and covered wagons and set forth for his new field of service. When they arrived at Sidney, Fremont county, Iowa, they found that the Missouri river was so high as to make it impossible to cross the same. The family therefore remained at Sidney until the 6th of May, when they crossed the river on a ferry boat, at Weeping Water, just above Nebraska City. Three days later the pioneer missionary arrived with his family at the Indian trading post conducted by Gideon Bennett, on Plum creek, and one mile west of the site of the present village of Liberty, Gage county. The next day the family continued its journey a distance of about seven miles and arrived at the Otoe and Missouri Indian mission building, in Marshall county, Kansas. Here the Presbyterian Missionary Society had purchased half a section of land, the north half of Section One (1) in Township One (1) south, Range Eight (8) east, and erected thereon a concrete building forty by ninety feet in dimensions and three stories in height, this building having been about forty rods south of the Kansas and Nebraska territorial line and one and one-half miles distant from the east line of the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation. Soon after the arrival of the Murdock family at this frontier mission the seven chiefs of the Otoe and Missouri tribes came to visit the new incumbent at the mission. Here Arkeketa and the other six chiefs held conference and decided to send their children to the mission school. Mr. Murdock treated them with great consideration and explained to them the purpose and object of his coming as a missionary. From New York were sent two women to become teachers of the young Indians, and about seventy-five boys and two girls came to receive instruction. With its various attaches the mission represented a busy little community, and the Murdock family passed the first summer very pleasantly. When the Indians were about to set forth on their autumn hunting trip for buffalo, they asked Mr. Murdock to permit the Indian boys in the school to accompany them on the expedition. The missionary tried to persuade them to let the children remain in school. The elder Indians seemingly gave their consent to this plan, but a little after dark the same evening "all of the Indian boys at the mission vanished like a flock of quail."

While the Otoes were on this hunting expedition a band of Sioux Indians, who were not on good terms with the Otoes, appeared at the mission, evidently in search of the Indian boys, whom they doubtless wished to scalp or kidnap. When they found the boys absent they did not molest the mission, the two Indian girls having in the meanwhile been secreted. When, upon their return, the Otoes learned of the visit of the Sioux their superstitious minds led them to believe that a miracle had been wrought, in that the boys had been absent, and they did not permit the youngsters to return to the mission in sufficient number to justify the continuing of the school. Only two of the Indian boys came back to the mission. The result was that the mission was given up in the autumn of 1857, the land and buildings being later sold by the missionary society.

In 1861, however, Rev. Daniel A. Murdock and his family again occupied the mission building. In the interim he had removed to Doniphan county, Kansas, whence he went to Lawrence county, Missouri, to assume charge of a college at Mount Vernon. When the Civil war broke out he found his sympathy with the Union cause to be a source of trouble in his community, and he returned to Nebraska and settled on a tract of land which he had previously entered as a preëmption claim, in Pawnee county. The next spring he went with his family to Washington county, Kansas, and within a short time thereafter he was made chaplain of the Thirteenth Kansas Infantry. In this capacity he served until his death, which occurred at Springfield, Missouri, on the 5th of April, 1863. A godly and righteous life marked by self-abnegating service was that of this pioneer clergyman and missionary, and his final days were given to his country's service in the Civil war. Mrs. Murdock subsequently contracted a second marriage and removed to Wray, Colorado, where her death occurred January 18, 1899, her remains being laid to rest in the cemetery at Wymore, Gage county, Nebraska.

Charles M. Murdock was a lad of about ten years at the time of the family removal to Iowa, and was reared under the conditions and influences of frontier life, his educational training having been received largely under the direction of his father and mother, both of whom were persons of superior intellectuality. He accompanied his parents on their various removals, as noted in the preceding context, and was able to attend the college of which his father was the executive head in Missouri. On the 11th of July, 1862, about one month prior to his twentieth birthday anniversary, Mr. Murdock tendered his aid in defense of the Union. At Marysville, Marshall county, Kansas, he enlisted as a member of Company K, Ninth Kansas Cavalry. The command went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in September, 1862, and there received a complete outfit. It thence marched to join the army in the field in southwestern Missouri, where it thus joined the active forces on the 2d of October following. Under the command of General Blunt the Ninth Kansas Cavalry participated in the following named battles and other engagements: Newtonia, Missouri, October 3d; Neosha, October 4th; Cane Hill, Arkansas, November 28th; Prairie Grove, December 7th; Van Buren, December 28th. The command then marched to Fort Scott, Kansas, and for the remainder of the winter it was employed in escorting trains loaded with supplies from that place to the Army of the Frontier, in Arkansas. In the performance of this duty, Mr. Murdock's company had frequent engagements with guerrilla forces, which attempted to capture the trains under its escort. In March, 1863, the regiment was stationed at points on the Kansas-Missouri state line, from the Missouri river to the Osage. Company K was stationed at Aubrey, in Johnson county, Kansas, and during the following year was engaged in scouting and fighting guerrillas and bushwhackers through the border tier of counties in Missouri. Mr. Murdock continued in service until victory had crowned the Union arms and peace had been re-established. He proved a loyal and gallant soldier, always at the post of duty, and was never wounded or captured. His record was one that shall ever reflect

honor upon his name, and he was mustered out July 17, 1865, duly receiving his honorable discharge.

After the close of the war Mr. Murdock settled in Washington county, Kansas, and for several years thereafter he was engaged in freighting across the plains. He was well acquainted with William Hecock, commonly known as "Wild Bill," and has been in the room in which this frontier character shot McCandless and four others of his gang, at Elkhorn Station, in Jefferson county, Nebraska. Those were strenuous times and Mr. Murdock, known for his courage and self-control, was elected and efficiently served as sheriff of Washington county, Kansas. He relates many thrilling tales concerning the problems and danger which he faced in the performance of his official duties. The courthouse of Washington county was destroyed by fire while he was serving as sheriff, and he was employed by the county to draft a new set of abstract books, as the original county records had been destroyed in the fire.

On the 18th of August, 1874, Mr. Murdock came to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence at Blue Springs, where he engaged in newspaper enterprise. He founded the Blue Springs *Reporter*, of which he became editor and publisher, and later he was editor and publisher of the Wymore *Reporter*. He was appointed right-of-way representative for the Burlington Railroad in this section of the state and was instrumental in locating and naming the present thriving city of Wymore, where he has maintained his residence since 1881. He also gave efficient service in obtaining the right of way through Gage county for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads. A man of broad views, mature judgment, and utmost civic loyalty, Mr. Murdock has done much to further material and social advancement in Gage county, and he so thoroughly grounded himself in the science of jurisprudence as to gain admission to the Nebraska bar. In later years he has given his attention principally to the practice of law and to the handling of real estate.

Mr. Murdock has given unswerving allegiance to the Republican party from the time of attaining his legal majority, and his loyalty to the party has been intensified by the thought that it represented the cause for which he fought at the time of the Civil war. He perpetuated the more gracious memories and associations of his military career by affiliation with Coleman Post, No. 115, Grand Army of the Republic, at Wymore. He is a charter member of this post, was elected its first commander, and is serving as its commander in 1918.

On the 25th of March, 1868, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Murdock to Miss Jane E. Pasko, who was born in Wisconsin, and they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the spring of 1918, their long companionship having been one of ideal order. Of their six children only two are living: Arthur A. is engaged in the newspaper business at Dewitt, Saline county; and Glenn E. is in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, at Great Falls, Montana.

Mr. Murdock is a recognized authority on historical data in Kansas and Nebraska, and has dates and names at his tongue's end — an evidence of his remarkably vigorous and retentive memory. He figures as a pioneer of both Nebraska and Kansas, and has lived up to the full tension of life on the frontier, even as he has done his part in the progressive movements that have compassed the development of these two opulent commonwealths.

ALBERT MILLER is one of the sterling pioneer citizens whose alert mentality, fine observative powers, and distinct intellectuality make his reminiscences of the early days specially graphic and interesting, and it has been through his own industry and good management that he has gained place as one of the prosperous exponents of farm industry in the county that has represented his home for nearly half a century, and to the development and progress of which he has contributed his quota. He is the owner of a well improved landed estate of two hundred and eighty acres, in Section 2, Logan township, and in the man-

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT MILLER

agement of the place he is assisted most effectively by his only son, Eilert, who is a bachelor, so that the two reign supreme in the pleasant home, the devoted wife and mother having passed to eternal rest December 4, 1891.

Mr. Miller was born in Germany, in February, 1847, and is a son of Eilert Miller. Mr. Miller was little more than an infant at the time of his mother's death and was six years old when he came with his father to the United States, settlement being made in St. Clair county, Illinois, where the father died a few months later. The orphan boy was taken into the home of a family by which he was reared to adult age on a farm in that county, and the somewhat meager education which he gained in his youth has since been supplemented by extensive and careful reading of the best in general and current literature, as well as by the diversified experiences of a singularly active and earnest life. In St. Clair county, Illinois, Mr. Miller continued his alliance with agricultural industry until he came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1870, his wife, whose maiden name was Rachel Jurgens, having likewise been a native of Germany and having accompanied him to Gage county, where she passed the remainder of her life, the son Eilert being the only surviving child.

Upon coming to this county Mr. Miller purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Section 2, Logan township, and with the passing years he has transformed this virgin prairie land into one of the fine farms of the township, where he has acquired a valuable estate of two hundred and eighty acres. His original domicile on the farm was a primitive dug-out of the pioneer type, and this was replaced by a log house which he occupied until he erected his present frame house, which he has kept in excellent repair, besides supplying other farm buildings of good type. Mr. Miller had his full share of trials and vicissitudes in the pioneer days, as did other early settlers of the county, and he went twelve miles across the prairie to Beatrice for his mail, the present attractive county seat having been a mere hamlet at that time and its postmaster having been Oliver Townsend, who, as Mr. Miller has facetiously stated, "kept postoffice in his overcoat pocket." From his youth Mr. Miller has been an earnest communicant of the Lutheran church, and the first meeting of the Lutheran society organized in Logan township was held in his home, the little dug-out, as was also the first school meeting for the district. Mr. Miller has liberally done his part in support of progressive measures and movements, has continued active in the affairs of the Lutheran church, and is one of the honored and influential pioneer citizens of Logan township, where his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and in the early days he had to go to Beatrice, the only polling place, to cast his vote. He served one year as township assessor and held for a quarter of a century the office of treasurer of Logan township.

FRANK BERAN, a representative farmer of Glenwood township, is farming four hundred and eighty acres of land in Section 8. Mr. Beran is a son of Anton and Pauline (Shalla) Beran, who had three children, but he is the only one who survives; the mother is deceased. Anton Beran was married the second time, to Josephine Beran, and the family history is recorded in another portion of this volume.

Frank Beran was born November 16, 1876, in Washington county, Iowa, where his parents had followed their farming operations previous to their coming to Gage county in 1878. At that time Mr. Beran was just a babe in arms and he has passed practically all of his life thus far upon Gage county soil, growing up with her sons and receiving the education of her institutions. From 1900 to 1902 he rented land from his father and in the latter year he puchased his present farm, where he is enjoying the fruits of the labors of years gone by. He is a breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs and is attending efficiently to his large and well improved farm.

February 27, 1900, Mr. Beran married Millie Vavruska and they are the parents of five

children who are growing up in their home and being educated in the district school — in short, receiving the preliminary discipline that shall prepare them for the good citizenship necessary to make happy homes and national wellbeing. They are as follows: Frank, Alfred, Adolph, Rose, and Benjamin. Mrs. Beran was born March 7, 1878, in Marshall county, Kansas, and is a daughter of John Vavruska, who, after years of active farming life, is now retired and living in Wilber, Nebraska.

In politics Mr. Beran is loyal to the Democratic principles and in 1913 he was elected township clerk, in which position he is still serving his community.

CARL F. WOLLENBURG. — As an exponent of most modern and scientific policies as applied to farm industry Mr. Wollenburg stands forth prominently as one of the distinctly representative and influential agriculturists and stock-growers of his native county. He is a member of one of the sterling and honored families of the county and by his own energy and well directed efforts he has made his way to the goal of success and prosperity, as evidenced in the fact that he is the owner of a valuable landed estate of two hundred and eighty-eight acres, eligibly situated in Sections 3, 4, and 10, Blakely township, his homestead place being in Section 4 and on rural mail route No. 3 from the village of Dewitt, Saline county. Mr. Wollenburg is associated with his brother Henry in operating each season a thoroughly modern threshing outfit, and in his plowing and various other work for which the modern device is available he utilizes a high-grade tractor. These statements indicate unmistakably his progressiveness, which is further shown in his use of the best of farm implements and machinery and the general air of thrift and good management that pervades his fine farm property.

Mr. Wollenburg was born on his father's old homestead farm in Grant township, this county, and the date of his nativity was March 7, 1882. He is a son of the late William Wollenburg, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume, so that there is not demand for a further review of the family history in the present connection. In the Lutheran parochial schools and the district schools Mr. Wollenburg gained the discipline that matured his mental powers as a boy and youth, and he has shown his good judgment by his continued association with farm enterprise, through the medium of which he has achieved splendid success. In 1913 he purchased his first land — a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, in Sections 3 and 10, Blakely township — and with increasing prosperity he continued to make judicious investments until he has accumulated one of the finely improved and well ordered farm estates of his native county. In making this excellent account for himself in his independent activities Mr. Wollenburg has not become self-centered but has at all times shown loyal interest in community affairs, his political support being given to the Republican party and both he and his wife being communicants of the Lutheran church.

On the 25th of April, 1905, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wollenburg to Miss Matilda Schafer, who was born near Wilber, Saline county, and is a daughter of Henry Schafer, who was born in Germany and who was twelve years old when the family came to the United States and settled in Illinois. Mr. Schafer came to Gage county about 1887, he being still a resident of this county, where his wife died a few years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Wollenburg have six children — Matilda, Elsie, Wilhelmina, Carl, Theodore, and Helen, the twin sister of Helen having died in infancy.

REV. J. B. REENTS has been a faithful and zealous worker in the vineyard of the Divine Master and is one of the able and honored members of the clergy of the German Lutheran church in Nebraska. He has served since 1902 as pastor of what is familiarly known as the Hanover German Lutheran church, the present edifice of which is in Logan township, near the Hanover township line. This splendid organization claims precedence

Rev. J. B. Reents

Zion's Lutheran Church

as one of the strongest and wealthiest rural churches in the entire state and offers a splendid field for the earnest and consecrated labors of its honored pastor.

Mr. Reents was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, January 15, 1874, a son of John and Jennie (Straate) Reents, both likewise natives of that historic province, where the father was born February 11, 1834, and the mother November 21, 1833, their marriage having been solemnized in 1858. In his native land John Reents continued to be actively identified with farm enterprise until the death of his loved wife, in 1911, and in the following year he came to America, the residue of his life having been passed in the home of his son J. B., the subject of this review. Both he and his wife were most devout communicants of the German Lutheran church and exemplified their faith in their noble and gracious lives. Of their five children the eldest is Joost, who is now a prosperous farmer near Clara City, Chippewa county, Minnesota; Bernard likewise is a prosperous farmer in that county; Ailt is engaged in farming near Allison, Butler county, Iowa; Rev. J. B., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; and Theda is the wife of William Kramer, a farmer near Bristow, Butler county, Iowa. Three of the sons served the required term in the German army.

Rev. J. B. Reents acquired his early education in his native land, where he completed a course in a teachers' preparatory school. He was eighteen years of age when he came to the United States, in 1892, and has been a resident of Nebraska since 1900. After coming to this country he maintained his residence for three years at Nora Springs, Iowa, where he was a student in a seminary, and for one year thereafter he continued his studies at Cedar Falls, that state. Thereafter he was for five terms a successful teacher in the public schools of Iowa, after which he entered Wartburg Seminary, in the city of Dubuque, Iowa, in which institution he completed a thorough course in philosophy and theology and was graduated as a member of the class of 1900. In the same year he was ordained a minister of the German Lutheran church, and was assigned to the pastoral charge of the Lutheran church located four and one-half miles north of the village of Pickrell, Gage county, Nebraska. There he continued his service until February, 1902, when he assumed his present important pastorate, in charge of Zion's German Lutheran church in Logan township, near the Hanover township line. The original church building was located in Hanover township, within a comparatively short distance from the site of the present edifice, and the name of "Hanover Church" is still familiarly applied. The present fine church edifice, which was dedicated in 1917, is one of the best church buildings in the entire state and has been definitely proclaimed as "probably the most beautiful rural church in the west." The edifice was completed at an approximate cost of forty-five thousand dollars and it is pleasing to record that all money necessary for the construction and equipment of the building was raised before the work of construction was initiated — and that without calling for any assistance of financial order save from members of the congregation itself. The church is beautiful in its interior design and appointments, is equipped with a pipe organ of the best modern type, and it was dedicated without one cent of indebtedness, the normal seating capacity of the edifice being eight hundred. In this connection the following brief record is worthy of perpetuation: "The Hanover German Lutheran church was organized, with ten members, March 14, 1874. In 1875 a parsonage was erected, but this was destroyed by a tornado, on June 26th of the same year. Church services were held in the school house of the district No. 38 until 1881, when was erected a church building that was thirty by forty-six feet in dimensions. This soon proved too small, and an addition was made in 1898. A belfry also was built at this time and a bell of two thousand pounds was installed, this being now in the new church edifice, on the opposite of the road from the old church building. The pastors of the church from its organiza-

tion to the present have been as here noted: Rev. Mr. Martin, Rev. William Ehmen, Rev. Theodore Seylor, Rev. O. Lompe, Rev. Wolfgang Hertel, and Rev. J. B. Reents, the pastorate of the present incumbent having covered a period of nearly sixteen years. Constructed of cream-colored brick and notable for the beauty and consistency of its architectural design, the new church edifice presents a very handsome appearance, two tall spires adorning the façade. Standing on a hill, the church is visible for a considerable distance in each direction and the chimes that have been installed in the taller spire can be heard for miles."

This vigorous and noble parish organization claims a membership of one hundred and fifty families — the largest congregation in Gage county and the largest of the Lutheran faith in the entire state. The present pastor, a man of fine intellectuality, is an earnest pulpit orator, unselfish and indefatigable in all pastoral duties, and an able and progressive executive.. He takes deep interest in all things touching the communal welfare and his influence is in all ways beneficent, the while he has the unqualified esteem of all who know him. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party.

On Christmas day of the year 1900 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Reents to Miss Louisa Hertel, daughter of Rev. Wolfgang Hertel, who was the immediate predecessor of Mr. Reents as pastor of the Hanover Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Reents have six children: John is attending college at Sterling, this state; and the other children remain at the parental home — Walter, Irene, Arthur, William, and Bernhard.

ALBERTUS H. KIDD. — This representative member of the Gage county bar has shown in his professional activities and service the power of concentrating the full forces of the individual and raising them to the plane of large achievement. He has demonstrated his ability not only as a lawyer but also as a citizen well qualified for leadership in movements and enterprises contributing to the general wellbeing of the community, and thus, while never wavering in his fealty to his profession, he has directed his energies also in successful exploitation of the basic industrial resources of Gage county and in fostering the progressive policies that make for civic and material advancement and prosperity in the communal life. Mr. Kidd has been engaged in the active practice of law at Beatrice, judicial center of Gage county, since 1891, and since 1909 he has maintained a professional alliance with Samuel Rinaker, with offices in the First National Bank building. The firm of Rinaker & Kidd is uniformly conceded to be one of the strongest in the southern part of the state, and this fact in itself vouches for the character and technical ability of the principals in the firm. As a lawyer Mr. Kidd has achieved high repute and has definite professional prestige throughout southeastern Nebraska — a prestige based on results achieved.

Albertus H. Kidd is a scion of sterling American colonial stock in both the agnatic and distaff lines, and takes definite pride in reverting to the fact that both paternal and maternal ancestors were numbered among the patriot soldiers of the Continental Line in the war of the Revolution. Family tradition is to the effect that the historic character, Captain Kidd, was of the same family line, and the subject of this review has never found it consonant to criticise the somewhat misdirected energies of the redoubtable captain, who under more favorable circumstances probably would have marked his career with worthy achievement as remarkable as were his storied exploits of seeming depredation.

Mr. Kidd was born at Ada, Allen county, Ohio, on the 19th of March, 1863, and is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the old Buckeye state, within whose borders were born his parents, Rev. Jeremiah W. and Elvira (Lillibridge) Kidd, both of whom passed the closing period of their lives in the state of Illinois. Rev. Jeremiah W. Kidd, a man of broad intellectual ken and fervent piety, prepared himself for the ministry of the Methodist Protestant church, and as a clergyman of this denomina-

tion he was called to service in Illinois in the year 1874. In that state he held thereafter pastoral charges in many different counties, and he was a revered patriarch of Bureau county, Illinois, at the time of his death, which occurred when he was nearly ninety years of age, his devoted wife having preceded him to eternal rest by many years. He labored with all of consecrated zeal in his chosen calling for a long term of years, and his ministerial services were given first in Ohio, later in Indiana, and finally in Illinois. Both the Kidd and Lillibridge family lines trace back to staunch English origin and both families sent representatives to America in the early colonial period of our national history, as previously intimated in this context. Mr. Kidd of this review has in his possession a comprehensive genealogical record of the Lillibridge family, and data therein presented show that members of the family in various generations have been prominent and influential in American affairs and in varied walks of life.

Albertus H. Kidd was about six years of age at the time of the family removal from Ohio to Indiana, and was a lad of about eleven years when removal was made to Illinois, in which latter state he acquired the major part of his early educational discipline, which included the curriculum of the high school at Wyoming, Stark county. Thereafter he pursued higher academic studies in a college at La Harpe, that state, and he put his scholastic acquirements to practical test and utilization by entering the pedagogic profession, as a teacher in the public schools of Illinois. In the meanwhile he had formulated definite plans for his future career, and in consonance therewith he began reading law under the effective preceptorship of the firm of Matthews & Peacock, of Monmouth, Illinois. With characteristic earnestness and zeal he applied himself to the study of the involved science of jurisprudence, and he proved himself well fortified in the same when he applied for and received admission to the bar of Illinois, in 1887. In the same year Mr. Kidd came to Nebraska and engaged in the practice of his profession at Alma, Harlan county. There he continued to reside until 1891, when, for the purpose of obtaining a broader field of professional endeavor, he came to Gage county and established his residence at Beatrice, where he has continued in the practice of his profession during the intervening period of more than a quarter of a century and where he has won secure vantage-ground as one of the leading members of the bar of southeastern Nebraska.

In Gage county Mr. Kidd has entered most loyally and fully into the communal life and has exemplified specially vital and well ordered progressiveness and public spirit. He served six years as a member of the board of education of Beatrice and for fifteen years as a member of the board of directors of the Beatrice public library, of which he is still a member. While he gives unfaltering allegiance to the Republican party and has accorded yeoman service in behalf of its cause, Mr. Kidd has considered his profession worthy of his undivided fealty and thus has manifested no desire for political office. His civic loyalty was shown, however, in two terms of effective service as city attorney of Beatrice. He was for four years the president of the Gage County Crop Improvement Association and his interest in agricultural industry has been shown in his ownership and improvement of several farms in Nebraska, in which connection it may be noted that he is at the present time the owner of a fine farm in Midland township. He gives a general supervision to the operations of this farm and is active in the improving of the grades of live stock in this section of the state, as well as in the advancing of scientific methods in agricultural enterprise. Mr. Kidd is president of the State Savings & Loan Association, of Beatrice, one of the substantial and important financial institutions of the county, and he is also a stockholder in the First National Bank of Beatrice. He is an influential and appreciative member of the Beatrice Commercial Club and has served for years as a member of its board of directors. In connection with the various movements incidental to the nation's participation in the great European war, Mr. Kidd

MR. AND MRS. JAMES K. P. PETHOUD

is now Federal Food Administrator for Gage county.

In the year 1888, at La Harpe, Hancock county, Illinois, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kidd to Miss Elizabeth Gilliland, who was born in Schuyler county, that state, and they have two daughters — Dora A. and Norma J., both of whom were graduated in the Beatrice high school and also in the University of Nebraska. The elder daughter remains at the parental home and Miss Norma J. is assistant secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association in the city of Lincoln, this state.

JAMES K. P. PETHOUD was a lad of fourteen years when he came with his parents to Nebraska Territory and his father became one of the earliest settlers of Gage county, where the family home was established nearly a decade prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood. Here the subject of this memoir was reared to manhood under the conditions and influences which marked the initiation of civic and industrial development in this section of the state, and thus he was the more strongly fortified in mature years to carry forward his quota of the important work which has made Gage county one of the opulent and attractive divisions of a great and prosperous commonwealth. He was one of the world's constructive workers and was one of the honored pioneer citizens of the county at the time of his death, which occurred on the 7th of June, 1896. Adequate record concerning the family history is given on other pages of this work, in the specific tribute dedicated to John Pethoud, father of him whose name introduces this article.

James Knox Polk Pethoud was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, November 24, 1844, and was named in honor of the Hon. James Knox Polk, who had in that year been elected president of the United States. He received his early education in the schools of the old Buckeye state and in 1858 accompanied his parents to the frontier wilds of what is now Gage county, where he assisted in reclaiming a pioneer farm and where, upon attaining to his legal majority, he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land in what is now Section 10 Midland township. For about three years after his marriage he and his wife remained on the old homestead farm of his father, in order that they might give proper filial care to his venerable parents, and after he had instituted the improvement of his own farm his parents there remained with him until they were called from the stage of life's mortal endeavors. Mr. Pethoud was a man of superabundant energy and ambition and thus he was specially successful in his progressive activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. He continued to maintain the active supervision of his fine farm property until the time of his death, and though his early educational advantages were of necessity very limited, he profited greatly from the lessons of experience and became a man of broad views and mature judgment, even as he was one of sterling integrity of character. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party, but he pursued the even tenor of his earnest and unassuming way with no desire for political activity or preferment. He was one of the sturdy yeomen who aided in civic and material development and progress in Gage county, true to the duties and responsibilities that devolved upon him and known for simple and unpretentious rectitude.

As a young man Mr. Pethoud wedded Miss Nancy Melissa Bunker, who was born in the state of Indiana, November 12, 1844, and who was reared in the state of Iowa, where her parents were pioneer settlers. She was a daughter of Daniel Bunker, a descendant of Nathaniel Bunker, who owned the farm on which was fought the great Revolutionary battle of Bunker Hill. Chief Justice Chase, of the United States supreme court, was a scion of the Bunker family and it was through his genealogical research that definite proof was given that the celebrated battle was thus fought on the property of his forebear, whose name is thus perpetuated in history. Mrs. Pethoud survived her husband by more than a decade and was one of the venerable and loved pioneer women of Gage county at the time of

her death, June 3, 1908. They are survived by only one child, Miss Arabella Pethoud, who remains on the old homestead farm which her father obtained from the government under homestead entry in the early pioneer era, the place being endeared to her by the hallowed memories and associations of the past and the pleasant home being known for its generous hospitality.

JOHN R. McCANN, who has held since 1914 the office of postmaster of the city of Beatrice, was born at Mount Sterling, Brown county, Illinois, on the 11th of January, 1868, and is a son of Thomas and Bettie (McEntee) McCann, both natives of Ireland. Thomas McCann was born in the city of Dublin, November 12, 1839, the youngest child and now the only survivor in a family of four sons and three daughters. Thomas McCann was a lad of about ten years when he accompanied his parents to America, the voyage having been made on a sailing vessel of the type common to that period and the family having landed in the port of New York city on the 5th of June, 1849. From the national metropolis the parents, Thomas and Rose McCann, proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, the journey having been made by canal and the Great Lakes, prior to the time when railroad facilities had been provided. After remaining about three months in Cincinnati the family went by steamer down the Ohio river and across the Mississippi to St. Louis, Missouri, where the home was maintained until 1854. Removal was then made to Brown county, Illinois, where Thomas McCann, Sr., purchased land, near Mount Sterling. There he developed a productive farm and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, both having been communicants of the Catholic church, to the faith of which the later generations of the family have adhered. The father of the postmaster of Beatrice was reared to manhood on the pioneer farm in Brown county, Illinois, where he owns and still resides upon the old homestead farm which was obtained by his father nearly sixty-five years ago. Mrs. Bettie (McEntee) McCann was born in County Cavan, Ireland, in 1838, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McEntee, were pioneers of Brown county, Illinois, where they continued to reside until their death. Mrs. McCann passed to the life eternal in 1879, and of the seven children John R., of this review, is the eldest; Thomas M. is a resident of the city of Chicago; Rose is the wife of Henry Moss, of Mount Sterling, Illinois; Elizabeth is the wife of James W. Brady, of Mount Sterling; Clara died at the age of eighteen years and George in infancy; and Miss Anna remains with her venerable father on the old homestead farm.

John R. McCann was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and acquired his youthful education in the public schools of his native county. At the age of seventeen years he went to Jewell City, Kansas, where for a period of about two years he was employed in a wholesale grocery establishment. He next went to Mankato, Kansas, and there he learned the tinner's trade. After about two years his health became impaired to such an extent that he sought a less sedentary occupation and entered the employ of the Carpenter & Gage Nursery Company, at Fairbury, Jefferson county, Nebraska, where he had previously worked at his trade for some time. In 1888 Carl Sonderegger, who was the proprietor of the German Nursery at Fairbury, had occasion to make a trip to Switzerland, and he engaged Mr. McCann to assist in the management of the nursery during his absence. Mr. McCann continued his alliance with the Sonderegger nursery and in the meanwhile lived in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sonderegger until the time of his marriage. He became a traveling representative of the concern and after his marriage he resided at Dewitt, Saline county, until 1893. Save for a brief interval he continued in the employ of Mr. Sonderegger for a period of fifteen years, during which he sold nursery stock to the value of thousands of dollars, the while his relations with his honored employer were ever of the most gracious and mutually appreciative order. Mr. McCann established his residence in Beatrice in 1893 and here he continued his active connection with the Sonder-

egger nurseries, as a salesman, until 1898, when he here engaged in the real-estate business. His operations in this field of enterprise extended into Texas, Florida, and Georgia, where his transactions involved the handling of much land and also the promotion of immigration to those states. He continued as a successful exponent of important real-estate operations until his appointment to the office of postmaster of Beatrice, a position of which he has been the valued incumbent since 1914, as previously noted in this context.

Mr. McCann is unwavering in his allegiance to the Democratic party, and he has been active and influential in its councils in Nebraska, where he served three years as a member of the Democratic state central committee.

On the 17th of June, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. McCann to Miss Grace E. Gast, a daughter of William and Sarah (Moyer) Gast, who were pioneer settlers in Saline county, Nebraska. There Mr. Gast became the owner of an entire section of land and developed a large and valuable farm estate, his holdings including land also in Gage county. His widow now resides at Dewitt, Saline county. Mr. and Mrs. McCann became the parents of two children, Ethel G., who died the 28th of December, 1916, and Edith Grace, who is the wife of Walter C. Magee, of Beatrice, Nebraska.

JOHN E. MURPHY. — The history of Gage county tells what has been done during the fifty years of struggle, striving, and working toward the creation of a great county. It must tell of the individual achievements of the men who have taken an active part in the work of development and progress. These men are the foundations of the social structure of Gage county. One of the number is John E. Murphy, who is a son of Patrick and Catherine (McCaffrey) Murphy, early pioneer settlers on the former Otoe Indian reservation in Gage county. Patrick Murphy was born in Ireland and when a youth he there wedded Miss Catherine McCaffrey. The young couple left their native land to seek their fortune in the United States, and they landed in Brooklyn, New York, where Patrick worked as a laborer. By hard work and patient saving he was finally able to buy thirty-two acres of land near Tribes Hill, New York.

In 1878, when the eyes of the east were directed upon the new western lands being opened for settlement, Mr. Murphy decided to come to Nebraska and seek better opportunities for acquiring a living and competence. This entailed a long and weary journey over rough roads that were not drained, while in many places there were virtually no roads at all. Finally, after weeks of travel, Mr. Murphy and his family arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska. Here he heard of the Otoe Indian reservation land being opened up for settlement. He came to Gage county, and on the reservation purchased a squatter's right to one hundred and sixty acres of land, a few miles from the present village of Odell. Here the family was soon settled on the pioneer farm, and the father, with his only son, John, broke the virgin land, wresting from the soil in due time its treasures of wheat and corn.

Mr. Murphy gave unstintingly of his time and talent to the community at large. As other settlers came in, there was need of civic and religious organizations. He was among the first to give aid in the organization of Paddock township and also to organize a school for the education of the children. Mr. Murphy gave liberally of his time and money to organize the Catholic church at Odell, and later he helped in the organization of the Catholic church at Wymore. All during his life thereafter these institutions received liberally of his support. In all of his labors on the farm, in the church and community Mr. Murphy's devoted wife shared. She was born March 12, 1827, in Darlyn, County Fermanagh, Ireland, and she came to this country with her young husband, settled with him in the Otoe Indian reservation, and shared with him all of the hardships and trials of pioneer life. They became the parents of six daughters and one son. Mrs. Murphy lived to the venerable age of ninety years and six months, and passed the declining period of her life in the home of her youngest daughter,

MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. MURPHY

Mrs. Rose Masek, where she died September 23, 1917. Of the children the following record is given: Mrs. Mary McCarthy resides at Wymore, this county; Mrs. Katherine Hatmaker is deceased; Mrs. Julia Comer resides in Paddock township; John F. is the only son and is the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Susan McCaffrey is a widow and resides at Hastings, Nebraska; Mrs. Abbie Stanosheck lives at Odell, Gage county, Nebraska; and Mrs. Rose Masek, of Odell, is deceased.

John E. Murphy was the fourth child and only son born to his parents. He was born October 1, 1863, at Tribes Hill, New York. His education was received in New York prior to his coming to Nebraska with his parents. He was 15 years old when they arrived on the Otoe Indian reservation and he helped his father to build their cabin, break the land, and perform the various other duties that were to be done on a pioneer farm. He remained on this farm until he went to Odell, to serve as a clerk in a general merchandise store. He remained thus engaged until 1900, when he went into the general merchandise business for himself. He successfully conducted the enterprise until 1914, when he disposed of the business, and he has since devoted his time to the real estate and insurance business.

In 1904 the Odell Independent Telephone Company was organized and Mr. Murphy was the leading spirit in the organizing of this company, of which he was elected secretary and treasurer. This substantial company has a modern building, erected at a cost of five thousand dollars, and in this the business is conducted. Mr. Murphy was interested also in a cider and vinegar manufacturing company that was organized in 1907, and in 1913 the factory at Odell, Gage county, was transferred to Atchison, Kansas, where it is now located. Mr. Murphy was secretary and treasurer of the company until March, 1917, when he sold his interest in the business.

The marriage of John Murphy and Katie A. Stanosheck was solemnized May 4, 1892. Mrs. Murphy was born in Iowa City, Iowa, and is a daughter of Albert and Pauline Stanosheck. (See Thomas W. Stanosheck sketch for the family history). Mr. and Mrs. Murphy became the parents of nine children: Frank E. is an electrician for the Atchison Railroad Specialty Company, at Atchison, Kansas; Ruth is a teacher in the high school at McCook, Nebraska; Rosa and Lillian are twins, Rosa being a dressmaker and remaining at the parental home, and Lillian being a teacher at Culbertson, Nebraska; Adelaide died at the age of twelve years; Marie is attending the high school at Odell; Frances is attending the public schools; and John and Catherine, twins, are at home. The children have received the advantages of the schools of Odell, and the family is popular in the social life of the community.

Mr. Murphy votes the Democratic ticket and has held offices of trust in his community. He has served as a member of the city council of Odell and as township clerk. He affiliates himself with the Knights and Ladies of Security, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Neighbors, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has real estate in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, and Colorado. He is ever alert to the civic needs of Odell and is a citizen of utmost loyalty and progressiveness.

JOHN H. MENTER. — The great basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing yield substantial and worthy rewards to the man of enterprise and good judgment, and this is definitely signified in the prosperity that has attended the efforts of Mr. Menter as one of the vigorous and resourceful farmers of Grant township, where he is the owner of a valuable landed estate of two hundred acres, besides which he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in Deuel county, this state.

Mr. Menter claims the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity, but the year 1918 records for him thirty years of continuous residence in Nebraska, where he has achieved substantial success and independence entirely through his own ability and well ordered ef-

forts. Mr. Menter was born in Wood county, Ohio, October 21, 1868, and is a son of Frederick and Mary (Schuerman) Menter, the latter of whom, a native of Prussia, Germany, died in 1874, at the age of thirty-six years, after having become the mother of four children, of whom three are living: Henry is a resident of Toledo, Ohio, and Louis of Pemberville, that state. The father ultimately contracted a second marriage and of the children of this union five are living, all being residents of the state of Michigan — Edward, William, Carrie, Katherine, and Ida.

Frederick Menter was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, May 20, 1840, and was six years of age at the time of the family immigration to America, his parents having settled in Wood county, Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their lives, his father having there become a prosperous farmer. Frederick Menter was reared and educated in Ohio and there he continued his alliance with farm industry until 1907, when he removed with his family to Huron county, Michigan, where, at a venerable age, he still resides on his well improved farm, the religious faith of the family having been for generations that of the Lutheran church.

John H. Menter grew to maturity under the invigorating discipline of the old home farm in Ohio and in the meanwhile profited by the advantages afforded in the district schools of the locality. In 1888, shortly before attaining to his legal majority, he came to Nebraska, where for the ensuing nine years he worked as a farm hand, principally in Gage and Saline counties. His compensation during a considerable part of this period was only fourteen dollars a month, but he carefully saved his earnings and kept fully in view the goal of his ambition — that of becoming an independent exponent of farm enterprise. In 1896 he rented land in Webster county, and later he farmed on rented land in Adams and Saline counties. In 1911 Mr. Menter purchased his present Gage county farm, on which he has since made many excellent improvements of permanent order, including the erection of a barn and other farm buildings. His energy and progressiveness have enabled him to make his place stand forth as one of the best improved and effectively operated farms in Grant township, his attractive homestead being situated three miles southeast of the village of Dewitt, Saline county, from which he receives service on rural mail route No. 3. He gives his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-growing, and is making a specialty of raising graded swine. He gives loyal support to measures and enterprises tending to advance the civic and material welfare of the community, has served as road supervisor, and he and his family hold membership in the Lutheran church.

February 22, 1896, recorded the marriage of Mr. Menter to Miss Mary Ulrich, daughter of Charles G. and Johanna (Graff) Ulrich, concerning whom further mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of their son Edward W. A. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Menter: Carl has the management of his father's farm property in Deuel county; Alfred is associated in the work and management of the home farm in Gage county; Gertrude is deceased; and Arthur, John, Alice, and Paul remain members of the gracious home circle.

CHARLES B. MUMFORD. — From the early pioneer period in its history to the present time Gage county has claimed members of the Mumford family as sterling and valued citizens, John B. Mumford, father of the subject of this review, having been one of three brothers who came from Wisconsin to this county in the '60s, and each of these brothers, John B., Ismay, and Jacob, having taken vigorous part in the furtherance of the initial development and upbuilding of the county, where the family name has always stood forth for civic loyalty and progressiveness and for the intelligent and productive industry which makes for individual success and communal advancement.

John B. Mumford was born in the state of Maryland, where his parents established their home upon coming from England to this country, and he became one of the pioneer settlers

in Wisconsin, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits and became one of the substantial citizens of Lafayette county. His initial visit to the Territory of Nebraska was made in the year 1860, when he accompanied his older brother, Ismay, to what is now the opulent and beautiful county of Gage, and of the conditions that then obtained in this locality some idea is conveyed by the statement that Dawson Mumford, son of Ismay, was the first white child born within the limits of this county. The general historical department of this publication shows also that Ismay Mumford was the first treasurer of Gage county. After this pioneer visit to Gage county John B. Mumford returned to Wisconsin, but in 1865 he brought his family to Gage county and here established a permanent home. He purchased four hundred acres of land, reclaimed and developed one of the excellent farms of the county, and he continued to reside on his well improved homestead farm, in Logan township, until his death, when seventy-three years of age, his venerable widow still surviving him and being one of the loved pioneer women of Gage county: her maiden name was Mary A. Roush and she was born in Ohio, the original American progenitors of the Roush family having come from Holland in the early period of our national history. John B. and Mary A. (Roush) Mumford became the parents of nine children, and of the six now living Charles B., of this review, is the second eldest; Sarah, the eldest, is the wife of William A. Foreman, of Beatrice; Eugene P. is individually mentioned within the pages of this publication; Ida and Frank remain on the old homestead farm of their father, the former being the wife of L. W. Eppert. who is associated in the work and management of the place; and Luther A., formerly principal of the Beatrice high school, is now engaged in the school-textbook business in the city of Lincoln, capital of Nebraska. John B. Mumford was a leader in the local councils of the Democratic party, though never consenting to accept public office, and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, his venerable widow being a devout adherent of the Christian church.

Charles B. Mumford was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and was a small boy at the time the family home was established on the pioneer farm in Gage county, Nebraska, where he was reared to manhood and received the advantages of the common schools of the period. It can well be understood that in his boyhood and youth he acquired full fellowship with the sturdy work of the farm, and in initiating his independent career he naturally continued his allegiance to the great basic industry of agriculture. For a period of years he was numbered among the progressive and successful farmers of Logan township, and in 1894 he removed to Beatrice, the county seat, where he engaged in the livery business. A number of years later he sold this business and turned his attention to the buying of horses, which he sold for local use, besides developing a substantial enterprise in the shipping of horses to various central markets. A thorough judge of values, he made a definite success of the business and was one of the prominent shippers of horses from this state. In the spring of 1915 Mr. Mumford gave evidence of his appreciation of the modern trend of progress by identifying himself with the automobile business. He erected a large garage building on Seventh street and there installed the best of equipment, including a general repair shop and a line of automobile supplies and accessories, his broad experience and aggressive policies having been potent in the upbuilding of a very prosperous business and his active control of the same having continued until September, 1917, when he sold both the building and the business to the present owner, Austin Krous. Since that time he has renewed his allegiance to his former line of business and gives his attention to handling horses, both in placing them on the market and in fitting them for service. He is at the time of this writing the owner of two fine standard bred horses which are making good account of themselves in turf events. Mr. Mumford is well known throughout this part of Nebraska, and his genial personality, as com-

bined with his sturdy integrity in all of the relations of life, has gained to him a wide circle of friends. He is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party, though he has manifested naught of ambition for public office, and his wife is an active member of the Christian church.

As a young man Mr. Mumford wedded Miss Martha Dearborn, and she is now deceased. She is survived by three children: Charles D., who is associated with his uncle, E. P. Mumford, in the furniture business in Beatrice, where he was formerly employed fourteen years in the furniture store of Walter Scott; Leslie is now a resident of San Francisco, California; and Mabel is the wife of N. Townsend, a prosperous farmer in the vicinity of Taco, in the Canadian northwest.

In September, 1904, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mumford to Miss Mae Van Boskirk, who was born in Linn county, Iowa, a daughter of Lincoln and Celia (Freer) Van Boskirk, whose marriage was solemnized in Wisconsin, whence they eventually removed to Iowa, from which state they came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1885, establishing their residence in Beatrice, where Mr. Van Boskirk erected a large and attractive residence at the corner of Seventh and Summit street — this being the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Mumford. Mr. Van Boskirk was a second cousin of Abraham Lincoln, and in the early territorial days he acquired a large tract of land in Nebraska, the patent to the same having been signed by President Johnson, and this property still continues in the possession of the family. More detailed mention of the Van Boskirk family is made on other pages, in the review of the career of Frederick Van Boskirk, a brother of Mrs. Mumford. Mr. and Mrs. Mumford have one daughter, Clara Belle, who was born February 28, 1912.

JOHN B. RENARD is a successful farmer and stock-raiser who owns a valuable and well improved farm in Section 1, Glenwood township. As a representative citizen of that township he is entitled to recognition in this history of Gage county.

Mr. Renard was born at Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa, May 5, 1862. His parents, Adam and Catherine (Wofe) Renard, were natives of Germany, and both passed the closing period of their lives at Keokuk, Iowa, where they had resided for many years and where the father was a cabinet maker by trade and vocation. John B. Renard was one of seven children, four of whom are living, he being the only one in Nebraska. When a young man he made his way to Page county, Iowa, where he remained two years, and he then came to Gage county, Nebraska. Here he farmed in Rockford township for one year, and for the ensuing five years he was engaged in farming in Logan township. For the past twenty-eight years he has conducted successful operations on four hundred and twenty acres of land in Sections 1 and 12 Glenwood township. Here he has erected a splendid set of buildings, among the finest in the county, and is here engaged in general agricultural and stock-raising enterprise. He has the coöperation of Herman Lenger, who is a bachelor brother of Mrs. Renard, and who makes his home with the Renard family.

Mr. Renard chose as his wife Miss Lottie Lenger, who was born in Warren county, Missouri, her parents having been early settlers of Gage county, Nebraska, and a record of the family being given elsewhere in this volume, in sketch dedicated to Lewis D. Lenger, of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Renard are members of the Christian church at Odell. Mr. Renard takes an active interest in the affairs of his community and was one of the organizers of the Odell Telephone Company, of which he has been president for many years. He assisted also in organizing the State Bank of Odell. Fraternally he is a member of Odell Lodge, No. 97, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Republican in politics and has given years of service in the office of justice of the peace. Mr. and Mrs. Renard indulge themselves in travel and have recently made an extended trip on the Pacific coast. They are folk of sterling worth and have a host of friends.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN B. RENARD

REV. VICTOR F. CLARK. — The honored pastor of the First Congregational church of Beatrice is a man of high intellectual attainments and has labored with all of consecrated zeal and devotion in the work of the ministry, besides having wielded much influence in the field of educational service. He was reared to manhood in Nebraska, where the family home was established prior to the admission of the state to the Union and when he was a lad of about ten years. His high sense of stewardship has been shown in every pastoral charge which he has held and also in all other relations of life, the while his benignant influence has touched most helpfully the general communal life in every place that has figured as the stage of his earnest and prolific endeavors. There are many points of surpassing interest in both his personal and ancestral history and he takes pride in being a scion of one of the sterling old colonial families of New England, that gracious cradle of much of our national history. Mr. Clark plays a large part in the community life of Beatrice, aside from his ecclesiastical functions, and for this reason, as well as on account of his being the spiritual and executive head of one of the important church organizations of the city, he is specially entitled to the tribute which is perpetuated through the medium of this publication.

Rev. Victor Fremont Clark was born at West Haven, Rutland county, Vermont, on the 20th of August, 1856, and is a son of Rev. Elipha Lyman Clark and Nancy (Munger) Clark, both natives of Whiting, Addison county, Vermont, where the former was born February 27, 1813, and the latter on the 6th of March, 1815. The father died in April, 1873, and the gracious and devoted wife and mother passed to the life eternal in the following year, both having been representatives of honored and influential pioneer families of the old Green Mountain state. Rev. Elipha L. Clark, a man of fine intellectuality and exalted character, as a youth prepared himself for the legal profession and was admitted to the bar of his native state. After having been for a time engaged in the practice of law he followed the course of his earnest conviction pertinent to his personal stewardship and entered the ministry of the Baptist church, as a clergyman of which he labored for many years, a true disciple of the Divine Master and one who gave himself with devotion to the aiding and uplifting of his fellow men. He bore to the full the "heat and burden of the day," garnered a rich harvest and also a gracious aftermath, and proved himself the friend and counselor of all who came within the sphere of his influence. In 1866 he came with his family to Nebraska Territory and entered claim to one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Seward county. There he gave his attention to the development of his farm, the while he continued his activities as one of the pioneer clergymen of the territory and state, and he was one of the revered citizens of Seward county at the time of his death, which occurred on his old homestead farm. His was definite leadership in popular sentiment and action in the pioneer community, he was stalwart in his allegiance to the Republican party, and he served as representative of Seward county in the last session of the territorial legislature, as well as in the first legislature under state regime. He became the father of eleven children, of whom only four are now living, and of the number the subject of this review is the youngest.

Rev. Elipha L. Clark was a son of Elipha and Jemima (Moulton) Clark, and a grandson of Isaiah and Eunice (Moore) Clark, whose marriage was solemnized December 24, 1778, at Simsbury, Connecticut, and who removed in the same year to Vermont, their son Elipha having been born in that year and his death having occurred in 1813, the parents having passed the remainder of their lives in the old Green Mountain state and the family name having stood exponent of strong and noble manhood and gentle and gracious womanhood as one generation has followed another onto the stage of life.

Augustus Munger, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was born at Whiting, Vermont, on the 22d of May, 1794, and his wife, whose maiden name was Temperance

Babcock, was born June 30, 1793, their marriage having been solemnized February 22, 1813, and both having passed the remainder of their lives at Whiting, Vermont, where the former died in May, 1841, and the latter in the year 1870. Augustus Munger was a son of Moses and Mercy (Baker) Munger, their marriage having occurred November 21, 1793. Moses Munger was born in the west parish of South Brimfield, Massachusetts, October 21, 1769, and his wife was born in 1778. Both were residents of Whiting, Vermont, at the time of their death, he having passed to eternal rest on the 11th of January, 1861, and she in the year 1840. Moses Munger was a son of Jehiel Munger, who was born at Brimfield, Hampden county, Massachusetts, June 3, 1737, and whose marriage to Elsie Rogers was celebrated in 1758, she having been born at Brimfield in the year 1738 and both having passed the closing years of their life at Whiting, Vermont, where Mrs. Munger died in 1798 and where he passed away August 3, 1817. Jehiel Munger was a distinguished patriot soldier in the Revolution, in which he rose from the rank of sergeant to captain. He took part in important engagements marking the progress of the great war for independence, including those of Concord and the Brandywine, and in the "piping times of peace" he manifested the same spirit of loyalty and patriotism. This sterling Revolutionary soldier erected as a home for his family the first two-story house built at Whiting, Vermont, and in the same were frequently held church services, he having been a deacon of his church. Authoritative family records still extant show that Nicholas Munger, who was born and reared in England, came to America in 1639 and established his home in Massachusetts. He married Sarah Hall, in 1659, and their son Samuel, born in 1665, married Sarah Hand. The next in line of descent to the subject of this review was Nathaniel, who was born in 1712, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Hand) Munger, and in 1736 Nathaniel wedded Elizabeth Bullen, they having become the parents of Colonel Jehiel Munger, of whom mention has been made.

As previously stated in this context, Rev. Victor F. Clark was about ten years of age at the time when the family home was established in Nebraska Territory, which in the following year gained the dignity of statehood, and he was reared thereafter under the benignant influences of the pioneer farm and those of a home of distinctive culture and refinement. After having made good use of the advantages afforded in the schools of the locality and period he entered Tabor College, at Tabor, Iowa, and in the preparatory department of this institution, which was founded in 1866, under the auspices of the Congregational church, he continued his studies until his graduation. Thereafter he was a student in the college proper until he went to Chicago, in 1880, and entered the theological seminary. In this institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1883, his ordination to the ministry of the Congregational church having occurred in that year. His first pastoral charge was at Milburn, Illinois, where he remained four years and he then devoted a year to effective post-graduate study in Princeton University, New Jersey. For the ensuing four years he held a pastorate at David City, Nebraska; the next five years found him as pastor of the Congregational church at Holdrege, this state. He then accepted a call to the pastorate of the Congregational church at Livingston, Montana, where he remained six years. He then returned to Nebraska and became pastor of the Congregational church at Neligh, Antelope county, an incumbency from which he retired six years later, to become pastor of the church at Ashland, Saunders county. After two years of characteristically earnest and fruitful service in this pastoral charge Mr. Clark was tendered and accepted the position of state secretary of Doane College, at Crete, this state — an institution maintained under Congregational church auspices. In this position Mr. Clark did effective work in promoting the interests of the college and after three years he resigned his post to accept, in 1914, the pastorate of the

First Congregational church of Beatrice. Here he has done much to further the spiritual and material prosperity of his charge and has gained to his church many new members. He is not only a forceful and eloquent pulpit orator, but his every utterance bears the impress of sincere conviction and utmost altruism, while his entire freedom from intellectual intolerance makes his work in his high calling the more effective and benignant. Aside from his pastoral functions of direct order he has marked executive ability, and has shown splendid success in gaining the earnest coöperation of the people of the various churches which he has served.

It is to be presupposed that a man of such patriotic ancestry would manifest a deep interest in the welfare of the nation and the state, and the civic loyalty of Mr. Clark is shown in his giving his influence and aid in the support of measures and enterprises tending to advance the general wellbeing of the community. He pronounces himself an independent Republican in politics and while he has never sought public office he has yielded to urgent importunities and is giving effective service at the present time in the office of probation officer of Gage county. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

In August, 1879, Mr. Clark wedded Miss Katie M. Woods, who was born at Tabor, Iowa, a daughter of Daniel Woods. Mrs. Clark passed to the life eternal in 1886 and is survived by one son, Roy Victor, who is engaged in the insurance business at Wilmington, California. In 1888 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Clark to Miss Alice Mathews, who was born in the state of Wisconsin, a daughter of Charles and Myra (Simmons) Mathews, the former of whom was born at Norwich, Vermont, in 1825, and the latter at Kinderhook, New York, in 1831: she died in 1857, in Wisconsin. Mr. Mathews was a carpenter by trade and became a successful contractor, his home having been established near the state line between Wisconsin and Illinois for many years and his death having occurred in the latter state, in 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have but one child, Martha Leavitt Clark, who was graduated in the high school at Crete, this state, where she is now a member of the class of 1919 in Doane College.

ANTON NOVOTNY. — The Bohemian farmer is industrious and accumulative. His pinched opportunities for advancement in his native land make him appreciative of the opportunities offered in the new world. This nationality is found in great numbers in Elm township, and Anton Novotny is a son of Bohemian parents, Frank and Mary (Vostry) Novotny. With their family of nine children, the youngest, Anton Novotny, but a child in arms, the parents settled in Pawnee county, Nebraska, in 1878. There were years of hard work and many deprivations facing this sterling pioneer couple, who were called upon to feed and clothe the large family of children, but Frank Novotny lived to see his children all grown to manhood and womanhood. He passed away in 1906. He was born in Bohemia in the year 1829. His wife, Mrs. Mary (Vostry) Novotny, was born in Bohemia, and since her husband's death she has made her home with her youngest daughter, Mrs. Emma Fritz, of Washington county, Kansas. The following is brief record concerning the children: Louisa died in Bohemia; Katherine is the wife of Anton Blecha, living near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Anna is the wife of Amos Hubka, living in Washington county, Kansas; Mary is the widow of Joe Herring, and lives in Washington county, Kansas; Joseph is a resident of Washington county, Kansas; Frank lives near Virginia, Gage county, Nebraska; James lives near Gretna, Nebraska; Louis resides in Washington county, Kansas; Anton, of this sketch, was next in order of birth; Amos lives near Wheatland, Oklahoma; and Emma is the wife of John Fritz, of Washington county, Kansas.

Anton Novotny was born October 15, 1876, in Bohemia, and he was only fifteen months old when his parents immigrated to the United States. He received his education in the rural schools of Pawnee county, Nebraska, and early began to assist in the work of the home

MR. AND MRS. ANTON NOVOTNY

farm. He left the parental roof in 1901, when he married and bought land south of Virginia, Gage county. This place he farmed until 1906, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 34, Elm township, where he has since resided. February 19, 1901, Mr. Novotny married Miss Mary Chadima, who was born in 1878, in Iowa. Her death occurred October 20, 1916, and she left three sons to be cared for by their father — Alvie, Fred, and George.

Mr. Novotny is a Democrat in politics but has never sought any political honors. He is a member of Western Bohemian Lodge, and is a shareholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company at Odell, this county. His sons remain on the farm with him and help him in the many ways in which boys of such age can be of use.

WILBUR S. BOURNE. — This representative member of the Gage county bar has been established in the practice of his profession at Beatrice, the county seat, for the past thirty-five years, and he has exemplified in his activities the best ethics of his profession, which he has dignified alike by his character and achievement. He is now (1918) serving as city attorney, and his inviolable hold upon popular confidence and esteem has been shown by his having been called upon to serve in various other offices of public trust. He presided six years on the bench of the county court of Gage county, has held the offices of city clerk and member of the board of education of Beatrice, and in 1898 he was elected mayor of the city, an office in which he gave a most able and popular administration, marked by well ordered progressiveness, his tenure of the position of chief executive of the municipal government having continued for two years. Judge Bourne is unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party and has given effective service in the furtherance of its cause. In the Masonic fraternity he has completed the circle of the York Rite, in which his maximum affiliation is with Mount Herman Commandery of Knights Templars, besides which he holds membership in the adjunct Masonic organization, the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, his affiliation in this being with Sesostris Temple, in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. Both he and his wife are active and valued members of the Christian church of Beatrice.

Wilbur S. Bourne was born at Macomb, McDonough county, Illinois, on the 22d of June, 1854, and is a son of Rev. Milton Bourne and Melvina (Gardiner) Bourne, the former of whom was born in the state of Massachusetts and the latter in that of New York, she having been the second wife of Rev. Milton Bourne, and the latter having been the father of five children by his first marriage and five by the second. One of the sons, Milton, Jr., went forth from Illinois as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war. Rev. Milton Bourne was a child at the time of his parents' removal to the state of Vermont, where he was reared and educated. He entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and became one of its pioneer clergymen in Illinois, where he formed the personal acquaintance of his historic contemporary, Peter Cartwright, while he was presiding elder of the Monmouth district of the Methodist church in Illinois at a time when said district comprised fully one-third of the entire state. Rev. Milton Bourne labored with all of zeal and self-abnegation in his chosen calling and the closing period of his life was passed on a farm in McDonough county, Illinois, where he died when his son William S., of this review, was a lad of nine years, his loved wife surviving him by a number of years.

Wilbur S. Bourne passed the period of his childhood and early youth in his native county and after having profited by the advantages of the public schools he provided ways and means that enabled him to supplement this training by a course in a normal school of Illinois.

In 1878, with a team and old-time "prairie schooner," Mr. Bourne and his young wife made the overland journey from Illinois to Nebraska, and for the ensuing year he was here engaged in farming, in Gage county. He

then returned to Illinois, where he completed his interrupted law studies and gained admission to the bar. In 1882 he returned to Nebraska and established his home at Beatrice, where he has since continued in the practice of his profession and where he is not only a representative member of the bar of southeastern Nebraska but also one of the most honored citizens of Gage county.

In the year 1878 was solemnized the marriage of Judge Bourne to Miss Georgia Rile, who likewise was born and reared at Macomb, Illinois, and they have three daughters: Fannie L., who is the wife of Edward Buhler, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Etsel and Velma, who remain at the parental home.

GEORGE W. PITTS. — The early '80s saw great numbers of farmers coming to Gage county and possessing themselves of their several portions of land. They built their sod huts and set themselves with a will to win the wild prairie to fertility. One of these men is George W. Pitts, who for nearly forty years has tilled Gage county soil on Section 7, Glenwood township.

Mr. Pitts came to Gage county February 22, 1880, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, for $3.50 an acre. As far as the eye could see there was nothing to obstruct the view of the rolling prairie with the exception of one lone tree, which Mr. Pitts cut down to provide fuel for cooking the first meal after the family arrival in the county.

Mr. Pitts was born September 16, 1844, in Ross county, Ohio, where his parents, George and Lucinda (Turk) Pitts, followed their farming operations upon coming from Pennsylvania, their natal state. It was in the year 1840 they established their Ohio home and in 1848 the father was called to his eternal rest. His widow later married a Mr. White, and her last days were spent in Kansas, where her death occurred in 1882.

The early days of Mr. Pitts' life were spent amid the rural environments of Ohio, and it was here he met and married, in 1865, the companion of these many years, Albina Runnels. She was born October 17, 1845, in Licking county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Sollis and Eliza (Nash) Runnels, who were born in Vermont and became pioneers of Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

In 1869 Mr. Pitts and his good wife removed to Washington county, Iowa, where he continued farm operations until 1880, when he made selection of his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Gage county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Pitts are the parents of the following named children: Flora, the wife of D. Baker, living in Idaho; Sollis, a resident of Alda, Nebraska; Cora, the wife of H. Coleman, living at Diller, Nebraska; Walter, residing in Louisiana; Arthur, of Thedford, Nebraska; and Eva, wife of O. A. Dean, farming the home place of subject. One child died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitts are members of the Methodist church and in politics he is independent of partisan lines.

SAMUEL D. RUTH. — Controlling a large and representative trade, the John H. von Steen Company holds prestige as one of the leading business corporations of Gage county and its progressive metropolis, and more specific mention of this important Beatrice business house is made on other pages of this publication. Of this company Mr. Ruth is the secretary, and his activities as an executive and a progressive business man have inured materially to the success of the enterprise with which he is thus identified.

Mr. Ruth was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, on the 29th of March, 1873, and he received his early education in the schools of his native state. He was there graduated in the McKendree College as a member of the class of 1898. He then came to Beatrice, Nebraska, and entered the employ of the John H. von Steen Company, with which he has since maintained his alliance and in connection with which he has advanced to the responsible office of secretary, of which he has been the incumbent since 1908. He has entered fully into the general communal life of his adopted

city and is essentially liberal and progressive in his civic attitude. He gives his political allegiance to the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the Mennonite church.

In the year 1904 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ruth to Miss Marie C. Dueck, who was born in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, and their two children are Clinton and Mildred.

JOHN W. McKISSICK is known and valued as one of the loyal and influential citizens of Gage county, which he has represented in the Nebraska legislature, and he is now an executive of the pure-food department of the state, in which position he is serving his fourth consecutive year, his official duties demanding virtually his entire time and attention and involving his traveling through all parts of the state. He maintains his home in the city of Beatrice, and this history of Gage county properly accords to him specific recognition.

Mr. McKissick is a native son of the west and during the course of his earnest and constructive career he has exemplified most fully the progressive western spirit. He was born near Hamburg, Fremont county, Iowa, on the 2d of November, 1875, and is a son of William A. and Ruth (Utterback) McKissick, both likewise natives of Fremont county and both representatives of pioneer families of that section of the Hawkeye state. William A. McKissick was born June 11, 1842, on the same farm as was his son John W., of this review, and in Fremont county, Iowa, he passed the closing years of his life. He was a son of Cornelius McKissick, who was born in Scotland and who was a boy at the time of the family immigration to the United States, where he was reared and educated. The family home was established in Missouri, and from that state he removed to Fremont county, Iowa, in 1830. He was the first settler of that county, where he took up a squatter's claim and where eventually he developed a valuable farm property. He became one of the influential citizens of Fremont county and remained on his old homestead until his death, in 1894 — a patriarchal pioneer who had been a leader in the march of development and progress in the great empire of the west and whose name and achievement merit enduring place in the annals of Iowa history. Cornelius McKissick assisted in the construction of the pioneer stage road between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in compensation for his services he received an allotment of land in Iowa, which was under the territorial jurisdiction of Michigan Territory at the time when he there established his home on the frontier. His wife survived him and remained on the old homestead until her death, at the remarkable age of one hundred and two years. Mrs. William A. McKissick is a daughter of James R. Utterback, who was born in Indiana and who was the second person to make settlement in western Iowa, Cornelius McKissick having been the first settler.

William A. and Ruth (Utterback) McKissick became the parents of seven children, of whom John W., of this review, is the eldest son; Edward resides at Riverton, Iowa, and is engaged in the telephone business; Mattie is the wife of Ora Hatton, of Fremont, Nebraska; Miss Stella remains with her widowed mother in the pleasant home at Riverton, Iowa; Winnie is the wife of Herbert Jones, a farmer near Riverton, Iowa; Nellie is the wife of Frederick Beam, who is engaged in the agricultural implement business at Riverton; Gosper is associated with the Palmer-Wheelock Company, in the metropolis of Gage county, Nebraska.

William A. McKissick had a broad experience in connection with life on the frontier, and it is worthy of record that he made, with wagon and ox team, eight trips across the plains in the early days. On the last of these venturesome journeys he made his way to California, where he remained seven years and was engaged in the buying and selling of horses. Upon his return to Iowa he brought with him from the Pacific coast several horses, besides which he was accompanied by some faithful Indians. Mr. McKissick gained through his own ability and efforts a generous

measure of success and prosperity and he wielded much influence in his native county, where he was held in unqualified popular esteem. He was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death, December 18, 1908, and, as before intimated, his widow now resides at Riverton, Iowa. Her father, James R. Utterback, settled in Fremont county, Iowa, in 1833, and there he remained on his original homestead until his death, in April, 1893, his wife having passed away in 1883. William A. McKissick was a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party and his religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church, of which his widow has long been a devoted member.

John W. McKissick, the immediate subject of this sketch, acquired his youthful education in the public schools of Riverton, Iowa, and he passed his childhood days on the old home farm of which mention has been made in preceding paragraphs. As a lad of thirteen years he accompanied one of his brothers to western Nebraska, where he passed about two years on a large ranch owned by his father. During the ensuing two years he was at the parental home and in the meanwhile he continued his educational work. In 1895 he settled in Polk county, Nebraska, where he continued his successful activities in connection with agricultural and live-stock industry until 1902, when he came to Gage county and established his residence in the city of Beatrice, where he has since maintained his home. Here he engaged in the insurance business, in connection with which he was made general agent for the Nebraska Mutual Life Insurance Company, of Hastings. For a few years he held the position of actuary of this company, besides having served for a term of years as a member of its board of directors. Since 1914 he has been one of the most efficient and valued executives of the Nebraska pure-food department, and he is doing also an important work as secretary of the Municipal Code Commission, of Lincoln, this state. This commission was organized for the authoritative handling of the work of codifying the ordinances of cities and minor municipalities, and in each instance it makes a definite guaranty to the accuracy of its work and to the legal impregnability of the same. The commission has already produced valuable work in its special province and this has been in connection not only with Nebraska municipalities, but also those of other states of the Union. In this connection it is interesting to record that the commission is at the time of this writing, in the summer of 1918, completing the codification of the ordinances of Gage county's judicial center and metropolis, the city of Beatrice.

Admirably fortified in his opinions concerning economic and governmental policies, Mr. McKissick is a staunch advocate of the principles of the Democratic party and has been an influential figure in the party councils in Nebraska. He served from 1911 to 1915 as representative of Gage county in the lower house of the Nebraska legislature, and here made an excellent record in the furtherance of wise legislation and the forwarding of the interests of his constituency. He is prominently affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he is serving in 1918 as deputy grand master of the Nebraska grand lodge. He has passed the official chairs also in the Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 26th of February, 1895, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. McKissick to Miss Della E. Swan, who was born in Polk county, Nebraska, January 8, 1876, and who is a daughter of William H. and Ida (Blowers) Swan, the former a native of Iowa and the latter of Indiana. Concerning the brothers and sisters of Mrs. McKissick the following brief data may consistently be given: William H. and Clara reside in the city of Beatrice and the latter is the wife of Rudolph R. Woelke; Harry is a resident of Shelby, Polk county, this state; Jennie is the wife of Edward Clobes, of the same place; Minnie is the wife of Andrew Peterson and they likewise reside at Shelby, as do also the younger children — Perry, Pearl, Vernal, and Floyd. The names and respective dates of birth of the children of Mr. and Mrs. McKissick are here noted: William A., March 26, 1896;

Ida Ruth, December 5, 1897; Bertha June, June 24, 1901; Frances Gertrude, December 19, 1903; and Woodrow Wilson, July 26, 1913.

REV. WILLIAM T. McKENNA. — The life work of a priest of the Holy Roman Catholic church is essentially one of self-sacrificing devotion to the needs of his people, his church, and the Divine Master whom he serves. The work demands years of preliminary study and preparation, for the highest of intellectual standards and the broadest of practical humanitarianism are demanded, the while there can be in prospect no temporal rewards commensurate with the service to be rendered, save the satisfaction of having labored faithfully and well in behalf of Christ and humanity. Father McKenna has measured up fully to the demands and exactions of his high calling and is one of the representative members of the Catholic priesthood in this section of Nebraska. He is pastor of St. Mary's church at Odell, and commands the high esteem and affectionate regard of the members of his parish, as well as the confidence and good will of the entire community.

Father McKenna was born on Prince Edward Island, Canada, on the 21st of September, 1873, and he received his preliminary educational discipline in the rural schools of his native province. He remained with his parents on the home farm until he was a lad of twelve years, and was then sent to a Canadian college in which he prosecuted his studies of preparatory order as well as along higher academic lines. In 1893 he entered St. Mary's Seminary at Baltimore, Maryland, and in this institution he completed the philosophical and ecclesiastical studies that prepared him for the priesthood. In this celebrated theological seminary he was graduated in 1896, and in the same year he was ordained to the priesthood. Shortly afterward he was assigned to a pastoral charge at Fairbury, Nebraska, but after three months of service at that place he was transferred to Nebraska City, where he remained six years and gave effective pastoral service, in the parish of St. Mary's church. In July, 1916, Father McKenna came to Gage county and assumed his present charge, as pastor of St. Mary's church at Odell. He has been since that time the zealous and devoted shepherd of this fold and has given earnestly of his time and talents to the furtherance of the spiritual and temporal wellbeing of his parish.

CHARLES D. KNOX has the best of modern facilities in the conducting of his successful livery and transfer business in the city of Beatrice, and is one of the wide-awake and progressive citizens of the Gage county metropolis. He was born in Belmont county, Ohio, November 23, 1855, and is a son of Isaac and Jane (Foster) Knox, who were born and reared in West Virginia, where their marriage was solemnized, and who removed thence to Belmont county, Ohio, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1865 Isaac Knox removed with his family to Illinois, and later he became a pioneer settler in eastern Kansas, where he entered claim to a quarter section of land near the present town of Erie. There both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Of their ten children the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth and of the number six are now living. Isaac Knox was a gallant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, his service covering a period of about three years; his political allegiance was given to the Republican party and both he and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church. James Knox, father of Isaac, was a native of Ireland and was a resident of West Virginia at the time of his death.

Charles D. Knox acquired his early education in the schools of Illinois and Kansas, and he has just claim to pioneer distinction in Nebraska, to which state he came in 1873. He settled in Seward county and later took up land and engaged in farm enterprise in the southwestern part of the state. Still later he engaged in the stage and livery business at Grant, Perkins county, where he continued operations in this line of enterprise for ten years. He then returned to the eastern part of the

state and engaged in the livery business at Seward, judicial center of the county of that name. Several years later he established himself in the same business at College View, a suburb of the city of Lincoln, and in 1913 he came to Beatrice and purchased the livery and transfer business which he has since conducted with marked success. That his establishment is thoroughly modern in its equipment needs no further voucher than the statement that he now operates a number of taxicabs and other motor vehicles, his business being the most important one of the kind in the city. In politics Mr. Knox gives his allegiance to the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1879 Mr. Knox wedded Miss Arpha Hickman, who was born at Newton, Iowa, and they have four children: Clarence B. is now engaged in buying and shipping horses at Beatrice; Clara is the wife of Chas. B. Hand, of Seward, this state; Fern remains at the parental home; and Eva is the wife of Frank R. Shelley, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume.

HARVEY O. MASON, owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 1, Lincoln township, was born in Ontario county, New York, March 21, 1841, and has been a resident of Nebraska since 1867, the year that marked the admission of the state to the Union. His life has been one of varied experiences and consecutive productiveness, and he stands forth as one of the sterling pioneer citizens of Gage county.

In a little log house of one room, in Farmington township, Ontario county, New York, Harvey O. Mason was born March 21, 1841, a son of Robinson and Mary (Brandt) Mason, of whose six children he was the fourth in order of birth; Hannah E. and Samuel are deceased; George is a resident of Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Franklin and Byron are deceased. Robinson Mason was a representative of one of the pioneer families of Ontario county, New York, where he was born, in Farmington township, in August, 1813. He continued his alliance with farm enterprise in the old Empire state until 1848, when he removed with his family to Chicago, Illinois, the future metropolis having then been little more than a straggling village. It was his intention to buy land in Illinois, but his wife found so little appeal in the west that he consented to return to New York. At Churchville, that state, he engaged in the general merchandise business, but about a year later he removed with his family to Wisconsin and engaged in the same line of business at Portage City. Two years later he became identified with lumbering operation near Grand Rapids, that state, and in 1856 he became a pioneer in the same line of enterprise at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, in which locality he became the owner of three thousand acres of valuable timber land. In his lumbering camps he gave employment to sixty men, and work was continued night and day, with consistent shifting of the working forces. In 1864 Mr. Mason returned to the state of New York and purchased a large farm, besides which he became concerned in the oil development business in Pennsylvania. Finally he established the home of his family in Monroe county, New York, after which he went to South Pass, Wyoming, and engaged in mining for gold. He shipped in from Chicago, via the Union Pacific Railroad, his ten-stamp quartz mill, and from Bryan, Wyoming, he hauled the mill across the desert to South Pass — one hundred and ten miles distant. John C. Fremont, the great "pathfinder," had visited South Pass in 1848 and the name was given to the point in honor of the expedition which he led through this newly discovered pass to the Pacific coast. Mr. Mason failed to develop gold in vein quality, and finally abandoned his undertaking. The government then employed him to saw lumber for use at Fort Stambaugh, besides finally purchasing his power plant. Mr. Mason eventually returned to his family and he was a resident of Monroe county, New York, at the time of his death, in 1885. His wife was born in On-

tario county, New York, in 1815, and her death occurred in September, 1890.

Harvey O. Mason attended school in Farmington and Churchville, New York, and also at Portage, Wisconsin. One of his schoolmates at Churchville was that noble and revered woman, Miss Frances E. Willard, founder and president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and their friendship endured until this gracious gentlewoman passed to eternal rest, in 1898. Mr. Mason was associated with his father's business activities until 1865, when he engaged in the meat business in the city of Chicago, where also he became a member of the Board of Trade. In 1866 he sold his interests in Chicago and returned to the state of New York, but in the following year he came to the new state of Nebraska and purchased land in Douglas county, three miles south of Omaha. In 1870 he sold this property, and thereafter he remained in the state of New York until 1874, on the 9th of May of which year he arrived at Beatrice, the judicial center of Gage county. The following day he went by stage to Plymouth, Jefferson county, in which locality he purchased land and engaged in farming on an extensive scale. In 1887 he sold his property in that county and settled on his present attractive homestead in Gage county. For eighteen years, while continuing his association with the management of his farm, Mr. Mason was a traveling representative of the Beatrice Creamery Company, one of the foremost concerns of the kind in the west. He has stood exponent of broad-gauged and progressive citizenship, has achieved independence and prosperity through his own efforts and is one of the well known and highly esteem citizens of Gage county. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church.

In February, 1869, Mr. Mason wedded Miss Jennie Shindoll, who was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1857, a daughter of John G. and Mary (Nelson) Shindoll. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Mason: Luella is a popular teacher in the schools of Long Beach, California; Byron, who is engaged in the drug business at Riverton, Wyoming, married Miss Mary Griffeth of Chicago, and they have one child; George is a successful ranchman near Blackfoot, Idaho; Gertrude is the wife of D. M. Bendernagel, of Lincoln township, Gage county; Harvey is a successful farmer in Riverside township; Roy is a resident of Deadwood, South Dakota; Elmer resides at Riverton, Wyoming; Esther is a trained nurse at the Green Gables Institute, Lincoln, Nebraska; Marjorie remains at the parental home; and two children died in infancy.

HENRY ALBERT. — The attractive village of Clatonia claims as one of its honored citizens this venerable and revered pioneer, whose has been a large and beneficent part in connection with the development and upbuilding of Gage county along both civic and industrial lines. Mr. Albert is president of the Clatonia Bank and is the owner of a valuable landed estate of eight hundred acres in Sections 23, 25, 26, and 27, Clatonia township, besides which he has six hundred and forty acres in Hand county, South Dakota, and a fine farm of one hundred and thirty acres in Allen county, Kansas. As an extensive landholder he has done most effective service in connection with the march of progress in the nation's great empire of the west.

Mr. Albert was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 24th of April, 1837, and while he has attained to the age of four score years he exemplifies in his sound mental and physical powers the effectiveness of right living and right thinking during the course of a signally active and useful career. Mr. Albert is a son of David and Katherine (Kinker) Albert, of whose four children he is the firstborn; Mrs. Elizabeth Shaffer, the next in order of birth, remains a resident of Hanover, Germany; Eberhart has been a resident of Gage county since 1874 and is now living retired in the village of Clatonia; and Katherine, who is the widow of August Struckmeier, likewise maintains her home in this village, her husband having been another

HENRY ALBERT

of the honored pioneer setters of Clatonia township.

David Albert continued his residence in the Hanovarian fatherland until 1874, when, in company with his wife, he came to America, to which country three of their children had preceded them, and they gained likewise a pioneer distinction by joining their two sons and one daughter in Gage county, the closing years of their earnest and upright lives having here been passed in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Stuckmeier.

Henry Albert is indebted to the excellent schools of his native land for his early educational discipline, and he was but fifteen years of age when his father provided him with sufficient funds to pay the cost of the ocean voyage. It was in the year 1852 that the United States thus gained this youthful immigrant. Mr. Albert landed in the port of the national metropolis and soon afterward made his way to Ohio, where he turned his attention to the vocation of teaming and where he continued his residence until he manifested his unbounded and insistent loyalty to the country of his adoption by going forth as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. In response to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, he enlisted, July 15, 1861, at Cincinnati, as a private in Company M, Second United States Artillery, with which gallant command he saw wide and varied campaign service in Virginia, North Carolina and other sections on which were staged activities incidental to the great conflict between the north and the south. He was a member of the famous brigade commanded by General Custer, who later sacrificed his life in conflict with the Indians in Montana, and he participated in many engagements, including a goodly number of the important and sanguinary battles marking the progress of the war. His military career in the field extended from July 15, 1861, until he received his honorable discharge at Light House Point, Virginia, on the 16th of July, 1864, at which time he was near the spot on which, about one year later, General Lee made his historic surrender. It may well be understood that Mr. Albert has continued to feel vital interest in his old comrades and that he signalizes the same through his active affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic, as a member of which he was one of the organizers of Rollins Post, No. 35, at Beatrice, Nebraska, of which he served as senior vice-commander, his present affiliation being with the post in the city of Lincoln.

After the close of his military career Mr. Albert continued his residence in Ohio until the spring of 1865, when he came to Nebraska Territory and numbered himself among the early pioneer settlers of Nebraska City, Otoe county. He arrived in Gage county on the 1st of April, 1866, and soon afterward entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in what is now Clatonia township. This ambitious young veteran of the Civil war was fertile in resources and expedients, as befits one who essays the burdens and responsibilities of a pioneer, and in instituting the improvement of his land he purchased four yoke of oxen at Nebraska City, from which point he drove them overland to his embryonic farm, fully seventy-five miles distant. With these faithful but plodding animals Mr. Albert broke about one hundred acres of his land, and in the meanwhile he constructed a rude "dugout" as a domicile for himself and his devoted young wife, who proved his true helpmeet in these days of struggle and hardship. It may be mentioned also that he assisted in the construction of the little dugout which was placed in commission as the first schoolhouse in Clatonia township. The passing years rewarded the earnest and indefatigable activities of Mr. Albert with cumulative success and prosperity and he finally developed his old homestead into one of the fine farms of this section of the state. He erected on the old homestead modern buildings, besides making other improvements of the best order, and there he continued to reside for the long period of thirty-eight years, in the meanwhile having gained recognition as one of the most substantial and influential citizens of the county.

In 1912 Mr. Albert sundered the gracious associations of the old farm and removed to

the village of Clatonia, where, in a commodious and modern home known for its generous hospitality, he is now living in semi-retirement, though his important capitalistic and landed interests make imperative demands upon much of his time and attention. He owns one-third of the stock of the Clatonia Bank, of which he has been president since 1894, and his mature judgment and conservative policies have made this institution a valuable factor in the furtherance of the civic and material interests of this section of the county.

In 1876 Mr. Albert was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, and incidental to his effective service in this important office he was a member of the committee which had the supervision of matters pertaining to the erection of the county court house, as well as that in charge of the building of the bridge across the river on Court street. He served six years as county commissioner and did much to advance public improvements of an enduring order as well as to provide for the county effective governmental policies. In politics Mr. Albert has never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party, and he reverts with satisfaction to the fact that his first presidential vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln. In 1901-02 he represented Gage county in the state legislature, where he made his influence distinctly felt in the promotion of wise legislation, though he was of the minority forces in that signally Populistic session of the legislature. He has served as mayor of Clatonia, was one of the organizers and original members of the school board of this village, and has given his service in other village offices. Mr. Albert is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Clatonia and contributes liberally to the support of the various departments of its work.

At Portsmouth, Ohio, on the 9th of April, 1865, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Albert to Miss Emma Steinmeyer, who was born and reared in Germany and who became a resident of Ohio soon after coming to the United States. Mrs. Albert shared with her husband in the tension incidental to pioneer life in Nebraska and lived to enjoy the gracious rewards that eventually attended their endeavors. She was summoned to the life eternal on the 14th of December, 1909, at the age of sixty-three years, secure in the affectionate regard of all who knew her. She was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and exemplified her faith in her daily life and her association with others. Of the ten children born of this union brief record is here consistently given: Anna died when about twenty years of age; Ella is the wife of Frank W. Jones, of Clatonia, who is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; John died at the age of about thirty-three years; Frank resides upon and has active charge of the old homestead farm of his father and concerning him specific mention is made in this volume; Mrs. Minnie Latshaw and her husband reside at Chetek, Barron county, Wisconsin; Benjamin is a resident of Clatonia township and a sketch of his career appears on other pages; Augusta is the wife of J. W. Lydick, of Clatonia; Daniel is a resident of Clatonia township and is represented individually elsewhere in this publication; Alma became the wife of Roy Barker and is now deceased; and Clara is the wife of Edward Chittenden, who is an executive in the Clatonia Bank.

On the 12th of July, 1911, Mr. Albert contracted a second marriage, when Mrs. Augusta Kroff became his wife. She was born and reared in Lippe, Germany. By her first marriage she became the mother of six children, all of whom are living. She was a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, at the time of her marriage to Mr. Albert, and she is the gracious and popular chatelaine of their pleasant home at Clatonia.

ELMER L. HEVELONE. — The efficient and popular secretary of the State Savings & Loan Association of Beatrice became a resident of Gage county when he was a lad of six years, and that in his character and achievement he has proved fully equipped for keeping pace with the march of development and progress in this favored commonwealth is attested by the fact that he has been called upon to

serve in various positions of distinctive responsibility and trust, including that of treasurer of Gage county. He has been in the most significant sense the builder of the ladder on which he has risen to the plane of definite success and prestige, and his activities have been varied, though each stage of his career has been marked by his consecutive advancement, the while he has so ordered his course as to merit and retain the inviolable confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact in the varied relations of life.

Mr. Hevelone, though imbued with the utmost loyalty to Nebraska and fully appreciative of its manifold attractions and advantages, takes a due measure of satisfaction in reverting to the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity,—perhaps in consonance with the humorous paraphrase which Hon. Chauncey M. Depew once made of a familiar quotation, his version being as follows: "Some men are born great; some achieve greatness, and some are born in Ohio." Mr. Hevelone was born in Seneca county, Ohio, on the 12th of May, 1874, and is a son of Sylvester and Cynthia C. (Wonder) Hevelone, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ohio. Sylvester Hevelone was born on the 28th of December, 1847, and was young at the time of the family removal from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where his marriage was later solemnized. In the climacteric period of the Civil war he manifested his intrinsic patriotism by tendering his services in defense of the Union. In 1864 he enlisted as a member of Company A, Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and with this gallant command he continued in active service until the close of the war. Mr. Hevelone lived up to the full tension of the great conflict between the north and the south, participated in numerous engagements of important order and as a soldier made a record that shall ever reflect honor and distinction upon his name and memory. In later years he vitalized the more gracious associations of his military career by retaining active affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and both he and his wife held membership in the Evangelical church.

After the close of the Civil war Sylvester Hevelone continued his association with agricultural pursuits in Ohio until 1880, when he came with his family to Nebraska and settled in Gage county, where he established the family home on a farm owned by his father-in-law, George Wonder, in Blue Springs township, near the present thriving village of Blue Springs. He marked the passing years with earnest and well directed endeavor and became one of the substantial farmers and influential citizens of his township. Both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives at Blue Springs, where his death occurred in the year 1897 and where she was summoned to the life eternal in 1908. They are survived by eight children, concerning whom brief mention may consistently be made at this juncture: George D. resides at Blue Springs and is a farmer by occupation; Samuel J. is a successful farmer in Riverside township, this county; Sidney F. is engaged in the merchandise business at Beatrice, the county seat; Ralph R., of Alma, Harlan county, is a farmer by vocation; Emma P. is the wife of David I. Ault, of Alma Harlan county; Eva P. is the wife of Frank Hatch, of Greeley, Colorado; Alice T. is the wife of Abraham L. Bowers, of Edinburg, Texas; and Elmer L., the immediate subject of this review, was the first in order of birth.

Reared to the sturdy discipline of a semi-pioneer farm, Elmer L. Hevelone acquired his early education in the excellent public schools of Gage county, and in 1890 he completed an effective course in the Beatrice Business College. As a boy and youth he had found both diversion and valuable experience by working about the depot of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad at Blue Springs, and there he learned efficiently the art of telegraphy. As a skillful operator he was given employment by the railroad company mentioned, and for a time he was in service at Atchison, Kansas. Later he became station agent for the same company at Kesterson, Jefferson county, Nebraska, where he served in this capacity until 1899, when he was transferred to a similar

post in the village of Filley, Gage county, where he remained thus engaged until 1901. For eighteen months thereafter he gave his attention to the buying and shipping of grain, with headquarters at Tecumseh, Johnson county, and from 1903 to 1906 he was Burlington station agent at Blue Springs, near the old homestead farm.

In the year 1906 Mr. Hevelone was appointed deputy treasurer of Gage county, under the administration of Julian A. Barnard, and of this position he continued the incumbent four years. His efficiency and his strong hold upon popular confidence and good will then marked him as a logical candidate for the office of county treasurer, and to this responsible position he was elected in 1910, as the candidate on the Republican ticket. He received at the polls a most gratifying support, and the high estimate placed upon his administration was shown in his re-election at the close of his first term, without opposition in either political party. By a change in the state laws during his second term the adjustment was such that instead of serving for a total of four years, the regular two terms of the previous regulation, he retained the office for five consecutive years. His ability in the management of the fiscal affairs of the county marked Mr. Hevelone as a man well fortified for the administration of financial business of a general order, and after his retirement from the office of county treasurer he was chosen president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank at Wymore, this county.

Of this position he continued in tenure two years, and in 1914 he became a stockholder and director of the State Savings & Loan Association of Beatrice, which is recognized as one of the strong, well ordered and representative financial institutions of southeastern Nebraska. In February, 1917, Mr. Hevelone was elected secretary of this banking corporation and as such he has the active administration of its large and substantial business, with incidental status as one of the efficient and representative figures in financial circles in this part of the state. The State Savings & Loan Association of Beatrice was organized and incorporated in the year 1890 and it has proved a valuable conservator of civic and material progress and prosperity in Gage county. Of this institution Albertus H. Kidd, of Beatrice, is president; Thomas J. Chidester, of Western, Saline county, is vice-president, Mr. Hevelone being its secretary, as already noted, and Louis Graff holding the office of treasurer. The assets of the institution are $1,700,000.00 and it gives special attention to the handling of savings accounts and to assisting in the purchasing and improving of real estate.

Mr. Hevelone, as intimated in a preceding paragraph, is a veritable stalwart in the local camp of the Republican party and as a citizen he stands exponent of the loyalty and public spirit that are potent in the furtherance of the general wellbeing of the community. He is one of the active and valued members of the Beatrice Commercial Club and served two years as its president. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Eastern Star, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the Royal Highlanders. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church in their home city and are popular factors in the representative social life of the community.

On February 23, 1898, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hevelone to Miss Anna M. McVey, who was born in the state of Missouri a daughter of Solomon and Lean (Kibler) McVey, the former of whom passed the latter years of his life in Gage county, Nebraska, and Republic county, Kansas, his widow being now a resident of Blue Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Hevelone have one child — Maurice Sylvester, born October 23, 1905, at Blue Springs.

JOSEPH MANGUS, who has figured as a successful farmer and stockman in Gage county, was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, August 17, 1871, and is a son of William and Catherine (Garst) Mangus, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Joseph Mangus was educated in the public schools of Illinois and attended school for a

short time after coming to Nebraska. He came to Gage county with his parents in 1881. He has always followed farming, beginning by renting land and later buying one hundred and twenty acres in Sherman township. After operating this for a few years he purchased eighty acres on Section 33, Rockford township, where he established his home. There were no buildings on this farm when Mr. Mangus bought it, with the exception of a small shack. Mr. Mangus greatly improved this farm, upon which he erected a fine two-story house, a good modern barn, and other buildings.

On September 2, 1915, Mr. Mangus was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Hutchinson, daughter of James and Frances (Combs) Hutchinson, who were born in Illinois and who removed to Kansas in 1882. Mr. Hutchinson now makes his home in Missouri, his wife having passed away several years ago.

Joseph Mangus and wife are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Mangus is independent in politics and has never desired or held public office, thinking it better to devote his entire time and energy to his farm and the raising and feeding of live stock, in which line of enterprise he has been successful.

WALTER H. DeBOLT. — If perseverance, self-reliance and worthy purpose constitute the genius of success, then there is no need for indirection or puzzling in determining the forces that have been brought to bear in gaining advancement for Mr. DeBolt, who has depended entirely upon his own ability and resources in making his way in the world, who has shown himself a master of expedients and who has pressed steadily forward to the goal of ambition. He is now one of the stockholders of the John H. von Steen Company, one of the leading wholesale concerns of Beatrice, Nebraska, and has an active part in directing the executive policies and general business of this representative corporation, which is engaged in the wholesale and retail lumber business.

Mr. DeBolt can well claim to be intrinsically an American of Americans, as he is a scion of a family that was founded in this country prior to the war of the Revolution. In 1772 three brothers, William, George and Henry DeBolt, each bearing a personal name spelled according to the French method and the original French surname of DeBaul, immigrated from the fair French province of Alsace — the present stage of much of the frightful military operations incidental to the great European war — to America, little wotting that more than two centuries later the land of promise to which they thus made their way would become involved in warfare in their native province, to which William and Henry finally returned, the brother George remaining to perpetuate the family name and honors in the new world and to become the worthy ancestor from whom the subject of this review traces his lineal descent, the presumption being that this founder of the family in America established his residence in the historic Old Dominion — Virginia. Isaac DeBolt, grandfather of him whose name initiates this article, was born and reared in Ohio, and thus is given assurance that his parents were numbered among the pioneer settlers of the Buckeye commonwealth.

Walter H. DeBolt was born at Edinburg, Johnson county, Indiana, on the 27th of July, 1860, and is a son of George and Mary (Webb) DeBolt, both natives of Indiana, where their marriage was solemnized. In 1866 George DeBolt removed with his family to Sterling, Illinois, but in the following year he numbered himself among the pioneers of Moulton, Appanoose county, Iowa. In the spring of 1878, with team and wagon, he made the overland journey from the old home in Iowa to the state of Nebraska, and became one of the early settlers of the village of Utica, Seward county, where he opened a shop for the repairing of wagons and where he maintained his home for many years. He passed the closing period of his life at St. Petersburg, Florida, where he died at the age of eighty-three years, his wife having been seventy-seven years of age when she was sum-

moned to eternal rest and her death having occurred at Seward, Nebraska.

Walter H. DeBolt was a lad of about seven years at the time when the family home was established in Appanoose county, Iowa, where he early became inured to active labor and responsibility, the while he made the best use of the educational advantages afforded him in the public schools. Through his own resources Mr. DeBolt defrayed the expenses of his course in the Iowa Normal School at Moulton, and it is a matter of record that he attended extra classes three evenings a week, under the instruction of Mrs. H. M. Bushnell, who now resides in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. He applied himself diligently to study during the midnight hours, found employment through the day and bent every energy to bringing himself up to the standard of his class, in which he was three years behind in his studies, owing to the conditions under which he applied himself. Of his indomitable perseverance and his marked mental receptiveness no further voucher need be asked than the statement that he made good on all his studies, though covering three years' work in one, and was triumphantly graduated in regular order with his class, that of 1877, besides having had the distinction of delivering the valedictory address.

Reinforced with the academic honors thus sturdily won, Mr. DeBolt set forth, in 1878, to join his parents in Seward county, Nebraska. Upon his arrival in Seward county he found employment at farm work, and though he had received absolutely no experience in the job assigned to him, he contrived, with much mortification of the flesh, as we may well imagine, to turn out his share of work in the binding of grain in the trail of a Marsh harvester. In the spring of 1880 Mr. DeBolt went to Montana, and he passed four years moving about in that frontier section of the country. He then returned to Nebraska, where for several years he was identified with the lumber business, a portion of the time in the position of auditor for the Searle & Chapin Lumber Company, of Lincoln. In 1909 he came to Beatrice, still in the employ of the company mentioned, and from this center he continued his activities as auditor until he accepted a place as traveling salesman for the John H. von Steen Company. In this capacity he made an admirable record of productive business and finally he became a stockholder of the company, besides which he has served as a member of its directorate since 1914. He now remains at the headquarters of the company and is actively identified with the general management of its extensive business. Mr. DeBolt has lost none of his characteristic nerve and energy and holds prestige not only as one of the representative business men of the Gage county metropolis and judicial center but also as a progressive and wide-awake citizen who is always ready to lend his influence and coöperation in the furtherance of measures for the general good of the community. He has not been assailed by ambition for political office but has never swerved in his allegiance to the cause of the Democratic party.

In 1888 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. DeBolt to Miss Alice Corkens, daughter of James Corkens, of Beaver Crossing, Seward county, and they are popular factors in the social life of their home city: they have no children.

SILAS BRYSON. — No one who knows the facts concerning the early settlement of Gage and Johnson counties would consider the history of these counties complete were the story of the Bryson family omitted from its pages. Silas Bryson was one of the greatest and noblest of the early pioneers of this vicinity.

Silas Bryson was born June 20, 1835, in Athens county, Ohio. There he spent his boyhood days and he completed his education at the Zanesville Academy. On April 12, 1855, he was united in marriage to Clarinda Young, of Morgan county, Ohio. To this union were born fifteen children. twelve of whom are still living at the opening of the year 1918.

In April, 1862, the Bryson family came to Nebraska Territory and settled in what is now

MRS. SILAS BRYSON

SILAS BRYSON

Johnson county, near the Bents Mills. Here they remained four years and they removed to Gage county and estabished their home near Adams, where Silas Bryson continued to reside until the time of his death. Shortly after coming to Nebraska the family had reason to be considerably in fear of the Indians, and on one occasion word came of an Indian uprising. All of the neighbors for miles around banded together and started for Nebraska City, sixty miles distant. Terrible rain storms came on, all the bedding became soaked, the victuals were ruined and the settlers were in dire distress. The third morning Mother Bryson arose in camp and announced her intentions of going back home. She said, "This style of living is worse than the Indians, and I am going back." Her courage inspired the crowd and by night the next day all arrived at home and found that their habitations had not been disturbed or their property molested. One winter when meat was scarce Father Bryson saw a fine big turkey coming into the clearing from the woods, and running back for his gun he soon brought the turkey down. This was the day before Christmas, and there was surely holiday rejoicing in the pioneer home. The older children have often said, "It was the finest Christmas dinner we ever had, and no turkey since has tasted half so good."

Mr. Bryson was one of the early pioneer school teachers of Gage and Johnson counties, where he spent thirty-five years in the noble work of moulding the characters of Nebraska boys and girls. He organized the Adams Methodist Episcopal Sunday School and for seventeen years was its superintendent. Mr. and Mrs. Bryson were charter members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Adams. Their oldest grandson, Dr. Roy D. Bryson, is one of the Nebraska surgeons in the war and is now in France. Three other grandsons, Edgar Evans, Horace Patch, and Frank L. Bryson, and a grand-son-in-law, James F. Brown, also are in the government service in connection with the great world war. Mrs. W. W. Barnhouse, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Bryson, lives at Wheeler, Kansas; William E. makes his home at University Place, Nebraska; three daughters, Mrs. George Horrum, Mrs. Viola Sheppard, and Mrs. Mollie Barmore, live at Adams, Gage county, as do also the sons David F., the well-known auctioneer, and John A.; one daughter, Mrs. Jennie Patch, lives at Canby, Oregon; Mrs. Ruth Bassett lives at Bayard, Nebraska; S. Y. resides at Grand Island, this state; George lives at Arcadia, Nebraska; and another daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Evans, lives at Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city.

Although the members of this good family are much scattered, yet their influence is still felt throughout Gage county. Mother Bryson passed to her reward on April 2, 1909, and Father Bryson remained with us until November 10, 1915, when he answered the summons of his Maker and joined the heavenly assembly around the throne of God.

JAMES W. SHELLEY, whose mental, moral, and physical powers well fitted him for enduring the trials and responsibilities of pioneer life and who marked the passing years with large and worthy achievement, came to Gage county in the territorial epoch of Nebraska history and here played a prominent and influential part in connection with civic and material development and progress. He was one of the honored pioneer citizens of the county at the time of his death, which occurred October 24, 1908, and this history properly pays a specific tribute to his memory.

Mr. Shelley was born in Derbyshire, England, February 5, 1843, a son of Francis and Frances (Hollingsworth) Shelley, who, in 1855, came with their family to the United States and established a home in Portage county, Wisconsin, in which state they remained until 1861, when they came to Nebraska Territory and numbered themselves among the very early settlers of Rockford township. Though Francis Shelley had followed in his native land the trade of shoemaker he showed versatility and adaptability when he became a pioneer farmer in Gage county, and he developed a good farm in the township mentioned. On the old homestead,

in Section 19, he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred May 25, 1884, at which time he was seventy-two years of age: his widow survived him by nearly a quarter of a century and passed to the life eternal in 1897, at a venerable age, their children having been six in number.

James W. Shelley acquired his early education in his native land and was twelve years old at the time of the family immigration to America. He continued to attend school in Wisconsin, but there his advantages along this line were meager. He was a sturdy youth of eighteen years when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, Nebraska, and he drove an ox team through from the former home in Wisconsin. In 1864 he took up a homestead claim of one hundred and twenty acres, and while giving vigorous attention to reclaiming and improving this land he continued to remain at the parental home for six years after acquiring the property. With increasing prosperity, he made judicious investment in adjoining land and finally he developed a well improved landed estate of more than four hundred acres, the while he stood forth as one of the energetic and progressive exponents of agricultural and livestock enterprise in this section of the state. He provided excellent buildings for his farm property and was known and valued as a leader in community affairs in Rockford township, where he continued to maintain his residence until his death, his venerable widow, one of the revered pioneer women of the county, being now a resident of the city of Beatrice. Mr. Shelley was a man whose course was ever guided and governed by the highest principles and his broad range of vision made him naturally a leader in community affairs. Conscientious in every relation of life, he voted in consonance with his convictions and was a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Prohibition party. He and his wife became early members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Holmesville, a village not far distant from their farm, and he served a number of years as a member of the board of trustees of this church. He was zealous in the support of educational work and served three years as moderator of his school district.

January 1, 1870, Mr. Shelley wedded Miss Mary E. Bailey, who was born in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, January 31, 1851, the fourth in a family of eight children, and she was twelve years old when the family came to Gage county, in 1863, her parents, Asa F. and Jeanette (Ford) Bailey, having here passed the remainder of their lives, the father having been born in New Hampshire, of Colonial ancestry, and the mother having been a native of the state of New York. Mrs. Shelley shared with her husband in the vicissitudes and labors of pioneer life and prior to their marriage she had been a successful and popular teacher in the rural schools of Gage county. A woman of gracious personality, she is loved by all who have come within the sphere of her influence and she has many interesting reminiscences concerning the pioneer period in Gage county history. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Shelley, Violetta died at the age of eight years; Anna remains with her widowed mother at their pleasant home in the city of Beatrice; William is a substantial farmer in Rockford township; Eloise is the wife of Robert H. Whittaker, a prosperous farmer in Rockford township; Harriet E. died in 1915, at the age of thirty-three years; Merton J. at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, is in government service, as a member in the aviation corps at Waco, Texas; Gilbert R. has the management of his father's old homestead farm; Frank R. is president of the Northwestern Business College at Beatrice, and is individually mentioned on other pages; and Harold E. is now a member of the United States army forces in the cantonment at Fort McArthur, Waco, Texas, where, as an aviator, he is preparing to take his place as a patriot soldier in the great European war. It will be noted that three of the sons are in the aviation corps — located at Fort McArthur, Texas.

VIRGIL E. McGIRR. — The city of Beatrice proves a most attractive residence place for those who have been successful in

farm enterprise in the county and who have achieved the independence that justified their retirement from active labors. Among the many popular citizens who are thus enjoying the attractions and privileges of the judicial center of the county is Mr. McGirr, who has been active not only as a representative of farm industry but also has been a successful exponent of the real-estate business. He was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, January 31, 1875, and thus is in the very prime of life. He is a son of Francis M. and Judith (Barkey) McGirr, and adequate record concerning the family is given on other pages, in the sketch of Dr. John I. McGirr.

Virgil E. McGirr was eleven years of age at the time of the family removal from Illinois to Gage county, and in the public schools he here continued his studies until his graduation in the Beatrice high school, as a member of the class of 1894. He continued his active association with farm enterprise until he had attained to the age of twenty-seven years, and he then established his residence at Beatrice, where he served three years as deputy sheriff of the county. For several years thereafter he was successfully engaged in the real-estate business, and his operations included the selling of land not only in Nebraska but also in other states of the Union. He built up a substantial and prosperous business and since his withdrawal from this line of enterprise he has lived virtually retired. He is the owner of a well improved farm of two hundred and sixty-five acres, in Holt township.

In politics Mr. McGirr is found aligned as a stalwart in the camp of the Democratic party and he has been influential in its local campaign activities. He has twice been his party's candidate for sheriff of Gage county, and on one occasion reduced materially the large Republican majority, his defeat being compassed by only twenty-seven votes. He served six years as chief of police at Beatrice, and gave a most efficient and satisfactory administration. Mr. McGirr has passed the various official chairs in the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is now president (1918) of the Beatrice aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and he is affiliated also with the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. In their home city both he and his wife became members of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church, with which he is still actively identified.

December 22, 1898, recorded the marriage of Mr. McGirr to Miss Bessie Hoopes, who was born in the state of Iowa and whose death occurred February 15, 1902. In 1905 Mr. McGirr wedded Miss Bertha G. Skinner, who was born in Kansas, and they have three children — Francis D., John, and Paul. There are no children resultant of Mr. McGirr's first marriage.

FRANK W. ACTON. — In the administration of the office of sheriff of Gage county Mr. Acton has so ordered affairs as to prove conclusively the wisdom of the popular estimate that placed him in this exacting position. His experience in connection with police and constabular service has covered a period of fully a quarter of a century, and thus he was specially well fortified for assuming the office of sheriff of Gage county, to which he was elected in 1914, and reëlected in 1916, at the close of his first term.

Sheriff Acton claims the Hawkeye state as the place of his nativity and is a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of that commonwealth. He was born on a pioneer farm in Henry county, Iowa, October 21, 1857, and is a son of William N. and Mima E. (Cook) Acton, the former of whom was born in the state of Maryland, in 1820, and the latter was born in Ohio, in 1827. William N. Acton was a boy at the time of his father's death, which occurred in Maryland, and he was reared and educated principally in the state of Ohio. His energy, self-reliance, and ambition led him as a young man to number himself among the pioneer settlers of Iowa, where he entered claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Henry county. He improved this property and after perfecting his title thereto he finally sold the farm and removed to Montgomery county, that

state, in 1865. There he continued his successful activities in agriculture and stock-growing until 1892, when he removed to Kansas and purchased a tract of land. In the following year he came to visit at the home of his son Frank W., at Wymore, Gage county, and here he was attacked with severe illness, in November of that year, his death having here occurred on the 2d of February, 1894. His loved and devoted wife survived him by nearly fifteen years and was a resident of Furley, Kansas, at the time of her death, in July, 1908.

William N. Acton was essentially a self-made man, and he achieved definite and worthy success in connection with normal lines of industrial and business enterprise, the while he so ordered his course as to merit and receive the unqualified respect and esteem of his fellow men. His religious faith was that of the Protestant Episcopal church and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, she having been a daughter of Jesse Cook, who was born in Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Ohio, and who removed from the old Buckeye state to Iowa in the pioneer period of the history of the latter commonwealth: he became the owner of a valuable landed estate in Iowa and there he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. William N. and Mima E. (Cook) Acton became the parents of six children, and of the number the present sheriff of Gage county, Nebraska, is the eldest; A. B. is a representative merchant in the village of Furley, Sedgwick county, Kansas; Ella M. is the wife of A. M. Stanley, a merchant at Palms, California; O. D. is a successful carpenter and contractor at Colfax, Iowa; J. L. is associated with his brother A. B. in the general merchandise business at Furley, Kansas, as is also C. M., the youngest of the children.

Frank W. Acton received excellent educational advantages in his youth, and after having availed himself of the privileges of the public schools of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, he entered the University of Iowa, graduating as a member of the class of 1875, and receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He defrayed the expenses of his higher education largely through the revenue received from his effective services as a teacher in the public schools, his pedagogic work having included three terms of service in the district schools of Iowa, two terms in the schools of California, and two in Kansas. At Red Oak, Iowa, Mr. Acton gained his initial experience as a member of a police force.

In 1910 Sheriff Acton removed from Wymore to Beatrice, Nebraska, the capital of the same county, and here he soon afterward assumed the position of deputy sheriff, under the administration of Sheriff J. L. Schiek. Prior to this he had served for twenty years as a member of the police force of Wymore, Gage county, in which thriving little city he held also, for fourteen years, the position of street and water commissioner. Known and honored in Gage county, Mr. Acton retired from the position of deputy sheriff only to assume the more important post of sheriff. In connection with the conscription of the young men of the United States for service in the great European war Sheriff Acton is serving as a member of the exemption board for Gage county. As a stalwart in the camp of the Republican party he has at all times taken an active and loyal interest in political affairs and has been influential in the local councils of his party. The sheriff is prominently affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, in which he is past chancellor, besides which he has on several occasions served as a delegate to the Iowa grand lodge of this order. He holds membership also in the Improved Order of Red Men and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

In the year 1881 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Acton to Miss Mary E. Harris, who was born and reared in Jefferson county, Iowa, and she was summoned to the life eternal in 1911, her memory being revered by all who came within the sphere of her gracious influence. Mrs. Acton is survived by two children: Paul holds the position of bookkeeper in the offices of the warehouse of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad at Wymore, this county; and Maude is the wife of

Paul W. Hitchins, foreman in the establishment of the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, at Beatrice. Christine, a foster daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Acton, is now the wife of R. M. Burroughs, an electrician at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska. Mrs. Acton was a devoted member of the Christian church and active in its work.

I. T. MERCHANT, the efficient postmaster at Adams, Gage county, claims the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity. He was born in Paulding county, Ohio, on the 19th of March, 1856, a son of Isaac and Nancy (Caylor) Merchant. The father was born at a place eighteen miles southwest of Washington Court House, Ohio, on the 25th of November, 1823. He was a prosperous farmer in Ohio at the time when the Civil war was precipitated, and he showed his intrinsic patriotism by enlisting in an Ohio volunteer regiment and by serving valiantly with the same during the period of the great conflict between the states of the north and the south. When his country no longer needed his services as a soldier he returned to Ohio, and in 1866 he removed to Kingston, Missouri. In that locality he was engaged in farming until the time of his election to the position of county judge. In this office he served until 1873, when he came to Lincoln, Nebraska. In the following year he went to Custer county, this state, where he took up a homestead claim and became one of the pioneer settlers of that large and now prosperous section of Nebraska. He there continued his agricultural activities until 1885, when he sold his farm and established his residence at Broken Bow, the county seat, where he practiced law for several years thereafter. In 1911, after having spent some time in a visit to his native state, Mr. Merchant came to Adams, Gage county, where he passed the closing period of his life in the home of his son, the subject of this review, his death having here occurred November 10, 1913. His wife was born February 5, 1830, her birthplace having been not far distant from that of her husband, in Washington county, Ohio. She died at Broken Bow, Nebraska, January 22, 1892, and in the cemetery at that place were laid to rest the mortal remains of both her and her husband. They became the parents of ten children, concerning whom the following brief record is available: Mrs. T. J. Todhunter lives at Washington Court House, Ohio; John was a soldier of the Union at the time of his death, which occurred in a hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, within the progress of the Civil war; George W. is a resident of Bedford, Iowa; Mrs. W. H. Huffer lives at Urbana, Ohio; the subject of this sketch was the next in order of birth; Mrs. John Armstrong resides in San Francisco, California; Emma and William are deceased; and Mrs. R. D. Ross lives at Anselmo, Custer county, Nebraska.

I. T. Merchant continued his studies in the public schools until his graduation in the high school at Kingston, Missouri, as a member of the class of 1873. In 1873, as previously noted, the family removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, and there he became bookkeeper in his father's hotel. In the following year he accompanied his parents to Custer county, this state, where he entered claim to a homestead and engaged in the feeding of sheep and cattle. He finally disposed of his farm interests and removed to Broken Bow, where he became deputy sheriff of Custer county. Thereafter he was appointed postmaster at Broken Bow, an office of which he continued the incumbent until 1890. Thereafter he was there engaged in buying and shipping grain and live stock until 1893, when he became a keeper in the shops of the Nebraska penitentiary, at Lincoln. The next year he went to Toronto, Canada, where he became actively identified with lumbering enterprise.

In 1900 Mr. Merchant established his residence at Liberty, Gage county, Nebraska, where he continued to be engaged in the buying and shipping of grain for the ensuing nine years. He then removed to the village of Adams, this county, and here he was successfully engaged in buying and shipping grain and other farm produce until 1913, when he was appointed postmaster of the village, a

position in which he has since continued his effective administration.

At Broken Bow, Custer county, on the 4th of September, 1880, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Merchant to Miss Sarah E. North, who was born in the Dominion of Canada and who is a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Kilpatrick) North, natives of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Merchant have one son, T. O., who has become a member of the national army and who is, in the spring of 1918, stationed at Camp Cody, New Mexico. Mr. and Mrs. Merchant belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a Democrat. He has rendered efficient service as a member of the township board, as justice of the peace and as police judge. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Merchant is a man of ability and civic loyalty and he takes deep interest in all things pertaining to the communal welfare.

DAVID F. BRYSON. — Some one has said, "Expect great things, attempt great things and great things will result." This may not be true in every instance, but in the case of David F. Bryson it most undoubtedly is. Nebraska might be called "The young man's state," for she has within her borders many brilliantly successful young men. In this class should be included the subject of this review.

David S. Bryson is a native of Gage county, born in Adams township, July 1, 1872, and he is a son of Silas and Clarinda (Young) Bryson, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. David F. Bryson spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Adams township. He attended the district school in acquiring his early education and assisted in the work of planting, cultivating, and harvesting the crops. On reaching man's estate he engaged in farming on his own account, and no man in Gage county has met with greater success in his chosen calling. He is the owner of six hundred acres of well improved land and leases 1700 acres. He is a breeder of pure-bred Angus cattle, and deals extensively in cattle and hogs, which he buys and ships. He is the best known and most successful auctioneer in southeastern Nebraska, making a specialty of selling fancy live-stock, as well as land.

December 24, 1891, Mr. Bryson married Miss Martha L. Kensing. Her father, August Kensing, was born in Germany and came to America when a lad of sixteen years. He worked as a stone-mason and on a farm until 1861, when he enlisted as a soldier in the Civil war, serving under General Ulysses S. Grant. He was a loyal and valiant soldier, and after being captured by the enemy he was held a prisoner at Andersonville until his exchange was effected. He was mustered out at the close of the war, in 1865, when he went to Iowa and located on the farm where he remained until the time of his death. The mother of Mrs. Bryson was born in New York state, June 5, 1847, a daughter of Solomon and Martha (Davis) Perrin. She is now the widow of David J. Olmstead, and makes her home with her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryson became the parents of ten children: Velma is the wife of Guy Atkins, of Adams, Gage county; George Douglas died in infancy; Reuben K. married Belle Hargis, and lives at Adams; Elnora May, Frank LeRoy, Martha Pearl Joy, David Silas, Alma Clarinda, June, and Queenie Hazel are still under the parental roof; and James I. died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryson are members of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Bryson is a Prohibitionist, the cause of temperance finding in him a stalwart champion.

With no unusual advantages, except a laudable ambition and abundance of self-reliance and ability, Mr. Bryson has so intelligently directed his efforts that to-day he stands in the front rank of the men of large affairs in his native county.

HARRY R. BROWN, M. D., a successful and representative physician and surgeon of the younger generation in Gage county, is established in the practice of his profession in the city of Beatrice and also holds the position

Mr. and Mrs. David F. Bryson

of assistant surgeon of the German Lutheran hospital in his home city.

Dr. Brown was born in Jefferson county, Nebraska, on the 9th of January, 1883, and is a son of Joshua P. and Dora Bell Brown, both natives of the state of Pennsylvania. Joshua P. Brown was born in the year 1856 and is a son of Orlando Brown, who likewise was born and reared in the old Keystone state and who died in 1915, at the patriarchal age of ninety years. Joshua P. Brown was for many years a successful teacher in the schools of Pennsylvania and finally he came to Nebraska and became a pioneer teacher in the schools of this commonwealth. He purchased land in Jefferson county and there reclaimed and developed a good farm. He there continued his active association with farm enterprise until 1909, when he removed to Kansas, in which state he had become the owner of two sections of land. He and his wife now maintain their home at White City, Kansas, and both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Brown is a man of broad intellectual ken and high ideals, and he has proved successful in the lines of productive enterprise along which he has directed his energies. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he has served in various township offices and as a member of school boards since he came to the west. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he became a member while he was still a resident of Pennsylvania. Levi K. Karschner, father of Mrs. Joshua P. Brown, continued his residence in his native state of Pennsylvania until he came with his family to Nebraska and became a pioneer settler and homesteader in Jefferson county. He made the long journey to this state by means of wagon and ox team. Mr. and Mrs. Joshua P. Brown became the parents of four children and of the two surviving Dr. Brown of this review is the elder; Merle is now (1918) attending school at Manhattan, Kansas.

Dr. Harry R. Brown acquired his early education in the public schools of Nebraska and in the same he continued his studies until his graduation, in 1901, in the high school at Tobias, Saline county. In 1901-1902 he was a student in the University of Nebraska, and he then entered Marion Sims Medical College, now the medical department of the St. Louis University, in the metropolis of Missouri, and in this celebrated institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1907. After thus receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine he initiated the active practice of his profession at Dakin, Nebraska, where he built up a substantial business and where he continued his activities until 1915, when he removed to Beatrice, where he has since been associated in practice with Dr. Harry M. Hepperlen, of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work.

In March, 1910, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Brown to Miss Alta Briggs, daughter of Russell Briggs, who came to Nebraska in the pioneer days and who now lives on his extensive cattle ranch near Broken Bow, judicial center of Custer county. Dr. and Mrs. Brown have two children — Harry R., Jr., and Helen Loure.

Dr. Brown is found arrayed in the ranks of the Republican party, he is affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife are communicants of Christ church, Protestant Episcopal. The Doctor has gained special prestige through his ability as a surgeon and has to his credit many delicate operations, both major and minor.

FRANCIS ELIAS, M. D., established his residence in the thriving little city of Wymore in the year 1911, and here he has since been engaged in the successful practice of his profession, in which his ability and effective service have given him secure place among the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county.

Dr. Elias was born in the state of Kansas, on the 17th of June, 1883, and the place of his nativity was his father's home farm, in Clay county. He is a son of Henry A. and Emma (Younkin) Elias, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, and the latter in

Illinois. In the early '70s Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Elias removed from Illinois and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Clay county, Kansas. There Mr. Elias reclaimed and developed a valuable farm property and since his retirement from active farm enterprise he and his wife have maintained their home in the city of Manhattan, Kansas. In the Sunflower state were born their three children — Anna, who is the wife of Rev. Mr. Tannehill, of Centralia, Kansas; Mary, who is the wife of Jacob Nelson, of Wakefield, that state; and Dr. Francis Elias, who is the immediate subject of this review. Henry A. Elias is aligned in the ranks of the Republican party and while residing on his farm in Kansas he was called upon to serve in various local offices of public trust. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Dr. Francis Elias acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of Clay county, Kansas, and the discipline included a course in the high school. In preparing for the profession of his choice Dr. Elias entered the medical department of the University of Kansas, and in the same he was graduated as a member of the class of 1910. After thus receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine he was engaged in practice at St. George, Kansas, about one year. He then, in 1911, came to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence at Wymore, where he has since continued in active general practice as a well fortified physician and surgeon who keeps in full touch with advances made in the profession that has enlisted his earnest and effective services. The Doctor has developed a substantial and representative practice and is one of the loyal and progressive citizens of Wymore. He holds membership in the American Medical Association, the Nebraska State Medical Society, and the Gage County Medical Society. In 1915 he took an effective post-graduate course in the medical department of the famous Johns Hopkins University, in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. He gives undivided allegiance to his exacting profession but is loyal to all civic duties and responsibilities, his political support being given to the cause of the Republican party. In his home city he is affiliated with Wymore Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, and Hiram Chapter, Royal Arch Masons.

The year 1911 recorded the marriage of Dr. Elias to Miss Olive Todd, who was born and reared in Clay county, Kansas, where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Todd, still maintain their home. Dr. and Mrs. Elias have three children — Houghton, Winfield, and Allison.

DWIGHT S. DALBEY has identified himself most closely and loyally with the interests of Gage county, where he has been influential in public life and civic and industrial affairs, and where he has been called upon to serve in various positions of distinctive public trust, including that of representative of the county in the Nebraska legislature.

Mr. Dalbey was born in Christian county, Illinois, on the 22d of September, 1878, and is a son of William M. and Mary N. (Hall) Dalbey, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Illinois. Dwight S. Dalbey found the period of his boyhood and early youth compassed by the benignant influences of the old home farm in Christian county, Illinois, and in his native state he continued his studies in the public schools until he was graduated in the high school at Taylorville, as a member of the class of 1897. For the ensuing two years he was engaged in independent farm enterprise in his home county, and he then entered the college of agriculture of the University of Illinois, in which he was graduated in 1902 and from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Science. His definite proficiency was recognized by his being appointed an instructor in agronomy in the agricultural college after his graduation, and after serving in this capacity about eighteen months he resigned the position and went to Arkansas, where he purchased a one-third interest in a large cotton plantation, near Marianna. He gave the greater part of his time to the supervision of this plantation until his marriage, in 1903, after which he continued his resi-

dence at Jerseyville, Illinois, the old home of his wife, until 1907, when they came to Gage county, Nebraska, and established here their permanent home, their removal having been prompted by their desire to assume personal direction of the large landed interests which Mrs. Dalbey had received in this state as a heritage from her father. Mr. Dalbey found in the new home splendid opportunities for the utilizing of his vital energies and the exercising of his progressive civic policies. His ability and personal popularity soon brought him into service in offices of local trust, for in 1910 he was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Gage county, the efficiency of his service having led to his reëlection thereafter for three additional terms. He was a member of the board at the time when was constructed the first concrete bridge in the county, and he had been so conspicuously influential in bringing about this modern improvement that, at the suggestion of the supervising engineer, the new bridge was named the Dalbey bridge.

In 1915 Mr. Dalbey was elected representative of Gage county in the lower house of the Nebraska legislature, as candidate on the Republican ticket, and it should be recorded that he ran ahead of the party ticket in this election, as did he also at the time of his reëlection, in 1917. He has proved a most valuable working member of the house and the various committees to which he has been assigned, and has done much to further the interests of his constituent district, as well as wise legislation for the state at large. Mr. Dalbey is a stalwart advocate of the principles and policies for which the Republican party has ever stood sponsor in a basic way, and he and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Dalbey was president of the Beatrice Young Men's Christian Association for a number of years and is now director. He has been a member of the Beatrice library board for eight years, and is president of the Cornhusker Highway, which runs through Beatrice from Marysville, Kansas, to Sioux City, Iowa. He also is a director in the Beatrice National Bank, and has been a director of the Commercial Club for ten years.

Mr. and Mrs. Dalbey own about eight thousand acres of Nebraska land — in Gage, Otoe, and Pawnee counties — the same being a heritage which Mrs. Dalbey received from her father, the late Ford Lewis, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this publication. They are unflagging in their efforts to further the prosperity of the two towns founded by the latter's father — Virginia, in Gage county, and Lewiston, in Pawnee county — the first having been named for Mrs. Dalbey, whose Christian name is Virginia, and Lewiston having been given its name in honor of its founder, the late Ford Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Dalbey are prominent in connection with the representative social activities of Gage county and the city of Beatrice, in which they have a beautiful home, and they retain also the fine old Lewis homestead at Jerseyville, Illinois, between which city and Beatrice they divide their time. They have a host of friends in Nebraska — in fact, it may consistently be said that the number is limited only by that of their acquaintances. Mrs. Dalbey has been specially active in philanthropic and charitable work since establishing her home in Gage county, and is doing a generous share in the war activities to which the women of America are devoting themselves so loyally and effectively. She has served two terms as regent of Elizabeth Montague Chapter of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in the city of Beatrice, and at the time of this writing, in the summer of 1918, she is state corresponding secretary, and has been chairman of the state committee of the Nebraska Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which has as its special function the prevention of desecration of the nation's flag. At Virginia, this county, the town named in her honor, Mrs. Dalbey has erected a most modern and attractive hotel, known as the Virginia Inn, and at Lewiston, Pawnee county, named in honor of her father, she and her mother erected the Lewiston Hall, a most modern building for general public assemblage and community use. At both

Lewiston and Virginia Mrs. Dalbey donated public parks, and in 1918 she donated a site of fifteen acres at each of the towns for the new consolidated schools.

December 23, 1903, recorded the marriage of Dwight S. Dalbey to Miss Virginia Lewis, the only daughter of the late Ford Lewis, of Jerseyville, Illinois, where Mrs. Dalbey was born and reared, her early educational advantages having included those of the public schools of her native city and those of Monticello Seminary, at Godfrey, Illinois.

JOHN H. VON STEEN, a man of admirable and pronounced initiative and constructive ability, has been the primary factor in the developing of one of the largest and most important industrial and commercial enterprises of Gage county, and he is one of the most valued and influential citizens and business men of Beatrice, where he is president and treasurer of The John H. von Steen Company, a pioneer concern which controls an extensive wholesale and retail business in the handling of building material, coal, etc., besides having developed an important and prosperous industry in the manufacturing of the woven-wire fence designated as the "Beatrice Barbed Border," and also of the celebrated "Beatrice Portable Corn Cribs." Basing its operations upon large capital and most progressive policies, this company is one of the foremost of the kind in Nebraska, and it maintains four branch yards, under the following titles and at the designated locations, at other points in the state: Hallam Lumber & Coal Company, Hallam, Lancaster county; Huntley Lumber & Coal Company, Huntley, Harlan county; and The John H. von Steen Company, Bruning, Thayer county, and Strang, Fillmore county. In addition to being the founder and president of The John H. von Steen Company of Beatrice, Mr. von Steen is executive head also of the subsidiary companies just mentioned. The business of The John H. von Steen Company is widely disseminated throughout Nebraska, and the corporation handles all kinds of building material on a large scale, at both wholesale and retail.

In 1879, about two years after he had established his residence at Beatrice, John H. von Steen here engaged in the retail lumber business. The enterprise which he thus established on a very modest scale formed the nucleus around which has been developed the great business enterprise of which he is now the head. In 1892 he expanded his enterprise to include the wholesale dealing in building material, supplies, and accessories, and in 1908, under the provisions of the laws of Nebraska, The John H. von Steen Company was incorporated with a capital stock of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, fully paid in. Under date of March 6, 1912, the company's charter was so amended as to permit its increase of authorized capital to two hundred thousand dollars, almost fully paid now. The history of the enterprise has been one of consecutive growth in scope and importance and has been marked by those legitimate and honorable commercial policies that must underlay all worthy success along such lines. Mr. von Steen has been president and treasurer of the company from the time of its incorporation and the other members of the executive corps are here designated: Clarence W. Graff, vice-president, and Sam D. Ruth, secretary. In addition to these officers the directorate of the company includes also John H. Pletscher, and Walter H. DeBolt.

John H. von Steen was born near the city of Dantzic, capital of the Prussian province of the same name, and the date of his nativity was May 15, 1852. He is a son of John H. and Johanna (Zimmerman) von Steen, who were born and reared in that same province, where the father followed the vocation of farming until 1875, when he came with his family to America. He and his wife were zealous members of the Mennonite church, the tenets of which deprecate all activities of military service, and his principal reason for leaving his native land was to avoid, in consonance with his religious views and firm personal convictions, conscription of himself and his sons for service in the German army. In

1877 John H. von Steen, Sr., established the family home at Beatrice, and here he and his wife remained as honored and valued citizens until they were summoned to the life eternal, secure in the high regard of all who knew them.

The subject of this review received in his native city excellent educational advantages, besides which he passed four years in the cities of London and Liverpool, with the primary object of familiarizing himself with the English language and business methods. He accompanied his parents to America when he was twenty-five years of age and he has resided continuously at Beatrice since 1877. Here he was employed eighteen months in the lumber yard of LePoidevin Brothers, and in 1879 he engaged independently in the retail lumber business, on part of the grounds where the Burlington Railroad station now stands. Energy, integrity, faithfulness, and broad vision insured cumulative success to the ambitious young man, and that he has wrought earnestly and well needs no further voucher than his status to-day as one of the most substantial men of affairs in this section of the state of his adoption. While thus promoting his individual advancement Mr. von Steen has at all stages been mindful of his civic responsibilities and has stood forth as a liberal and public-spirited naturalized American citizen, his course in all of the relations of life having been such that he has gained and retained the inviolable confidence and good will of his fellow men.

The political allegiance of Mr. von Steen has been given to the Prohibition party, but he is primarily and essentially a business man and has had no ambition for political activity or preferment. He was reared in the faith of the Mennonite church and has been an earnest and active member of the same from his early youth to the present time. He is one of the influential representatives of this denomination in Gage county, has for many years been a valued teacher in the Sunday school of the Mennonite church in Beatrice. He attended the general conference of the Mennonite church held in California in the summer of 1917, and incidental to his trip to the Pacific coast he, with his wife, visited the Yellowstone National Park — an indulgence that afforded them special satisfaction, this also being true in connection with his annual vacations, which are usually given to travel for recreation.

In 1882 Mr. von Steen wedded Miss Mary McKibbin, who was born at Fishlake, Indiana, and whose death occurred in 1893, she having been a devout member of the Mennonite church. She is survived by two daughters — Edith, who completed her education in Bethel College, at Newton, Kansas, and who is now the wife of Professor D. H. Richert, a member of the faculty of that institution; and Ada, who is the wife of Dr. Louis E. Penner, a representative physician and surgeon engaged in practice at Beatrice. In 1895 Mr. von Steen contracted a second marriage, when Mrs. Katie (Ruth) Hirschler became his wife, and she is now the worthy chatelaine of their beautiful home, on North Fourth street, in Beatrice.

HENRY J. TROEMPER, D. V. S. — Broad and accurate technical knowledge and marked facility in making practical application of the same have given to Dr. Troemper definite prestige as one of the able and representative exponents of the veterinary profession in this section of the state, and, with residence and professional headquarters in the city of Beatrice, he has developed a substantial and important practice, his efficient service being of special value in its direct pertinence to the large live-stock interests of this section of Nebraska. He is a young man who is an enthusiast in his profession and in connection with his widely extended professional practice he is the proprietor of the Beatrice Veterinary Hospital, a well ordered institution of the best modern facilities.

Dr. Troemper was born at Alma, Waubaunsee county, Kansas, on the 9th of December, 1883, and is a son of Christian and Ursula (Myer) Troemper, the former of whom was born at Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Germany. Christian Troemper was a

pioneer in the state of Kansas, where he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Waubaunsee county, and where he eventually accumulated and improved a large and valuable landed estate. He still continues his activities as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of that county and is an honored citizen of his community. His wife died June 7, 1917, at the age of sixty-eight years.

Reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, Dr. Troemper early learned the lessons of practical industry, the while he made good use of the advantages afforded in the excellent public schools of his native commonwealth. In formulating plans for his future career he followed the course of his ambition by entering the Kansas City Veterinary College, after having previously been for two years a student in the State Agricultural College of Kansas, at Manhattan. During the vacation of his freshman year in the veterinary college Dr. Troemper fortified himself by practical experience gained along the line of his chosen profession, this service having been given in Kansas City. In his junior year he gave to the government efficient professional service in the work of eradicating an epidemic of scab in sheep in the state of New Mexico, his headquarters for this interval having been in the city of Albuquerque. He was graduated in the Kansas City Veterinary College as a member of the class of 1908, and in August of that year, after having thus received his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Surgery, he established his residence in Beatrice, where he has built up a large and representative practice that extends over a radius of many miles from the judicial center of Gage county. His veterinary hospital has the most approved appliances and facilities for the treatment and general care of horses, cattle and other animals, and he has made the same an institution of much value in this section of the state.

In politics Dr. Troemper is found aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1910 was recorded the marriage of Dr. Troemper to Miss Nannie Hadinger, who was born and reared at Shickley, Fillmore county, Nebraska, and they are popular factors in the representative social activities of their home city.

GENERAL LEONARD WRIGHT COLBY was born in Cherry Valley, Ashtabula county, Ohio, August 5, 1846, the fifth son of the seven children born to Rowel and Abigail (Livingston) Colby. His parents were Americans and natives of Grafton county, New Hampshire. When he was about four years old his parents removed to a farm five miles from Freeport, Stephenson county, Illinois, where he resided until his enlistment as a private soldier in the great war of the Rebellion and his assignment to the Eighth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He was wounded on April 9, 1865, in almost the last battle of the Civil war, and was recommended for promotion and commission for gallant and meritorious services in the charge at Fort Blakely and the siege of Mobile, Alabama, where he captured a Confederate flag. After his discharge from the Union army, in 1865, he with about fifty others from his regiment enlisted with the forces of Maximilian, serving with the rank of captain for several months, until his resignation, in December, 1865. On his return home he entered the high school at Freeport, Illinois, from which he graduated in July, 1867, with the highest honors of his class. In the fall of the same year he entered the University of Wisconsin, in the regular classical course, and he was graduated in June, 1871, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, again taking the highest honors of his class. He was graduated also from the military and engineering courses at the same institution, obtaining the degrees of Civil Engineer and Mechanical Engineer and the recommendation for a lieutenant's commission in the United States army. During the last two years of his college course he was commissioned and served as captain of the university cadets at Madison, Wisconsin. Thereafter he

was graduated from the law department of the university, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and in the fall of 1872 (August 22d), he came to Nebraska and opened a law office in Beatrice, being associated in business with Lynus B. Sale, a former college friend. In 1874 the University of Wisconsin conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. On June 25, 1875, he became associated with Alexander W. Conley in the organization of a company of state militia at Beatrice, and was commissioned first lieutenant of such company, which was designated as the Paddock Guards, in honor of United States Senator Algernon Sidney Paddock. In the summer of 1877 he was commissioned captain by the governor of Nebraska and placed in command of four companies of mounted rifles. He marched his battalion from Beatrice to Red Cloud, thence to northern Nebraska and Wyoming in pursuit of bands of marauding Indians. On his return he was commissioned captain of the Paddock Guards, which command he held until June 13, 1881, when he was commissioned colonel of the First Regiment Nebraska National Guard. He had command of the Nebraska state troops and six companies of United States regulars during the labor strike in Omaha in March, 1882, at which time the city was placed under martial law; he was re-commissioned colonel July 10, 1884, and before the end of his term, on April 11, 1887, was promoted, by appointment and commission, to brigadier general and placed in command of the First Brigade, comprising two infantry regiments, a troop of cavalry, and a battery of artillery. On April 11, 1890, his commission as brigadier general was renewed for another term of three years.

During the winter of 1890-1891 General Colby and his command were called into active service on the occasion of the uprising of the Sioux Indians of Pine Ridge and other agencies in South Dakota and Nebraska. The command took part with great credit in the engagement at Wounded Knee and many skirmishes along the borders of the Bad Lands, where the hostile Indians were located, and won the congratulations of Major General Nelson A. Miles, of the United States army, who complimented General Colby on his successful management of the Nebraska troops. On his return home General Colby was presented with a gold medal for "gallant and efficient services rendered the state of Nebraska." The fourth day after the battle of Wounded Knee, when the detail went out to bury the dead, an Indian baby girl about four months old was found on the battlefield, tied, in the usual fashion, on her dead mother's back, and found under a covering of snow. Her head, hands, and feet were frozen in the severe storm that followed the battle, but under proper care she fully recovered. The child was taken by General Colby to his home, was given the Christian name of Margaret Elizabeth, and the Indian name of Zintkala Nuni, meaning in the Sioux language "Lost Bird." She was reared and educated at his home, being given all the advantages of civilization.

April 10, 1893, General Colby was for the third time commissioned brigadier general of the Nebraska state troops, and in July of the following year his command was again called into active service, in the suppression of the strike at the packing houses in South Omaha, where order was restored without damage or casualty. In December, 1896, during the progress of the Cuban revolution against Spain, General Colby commenced the organization of the American-Cuban Volunteer Legion, and in the following year he completed the enrollment of twenty-five thousand American volunteers, with headquarters at Matamoras, Mexico, and raised one million two hundred thousand dollars for the establishment of the Cuban republic. Upon the destruction of the battleship Maine, in Havana harbor, he tendered the services of the Cuban Legion in the approaching war between the United States and Spain. General Colby was commissioned June 3, 1898, by President McKinley, as brigadier general of United States Volunteers; he was first assigned to the command of the Third Brigade, First Division, Third Army Corps, stationed at Chickamauga Park, Ga.; for some weeks he had command of the First

Engd by E.G.Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Yours Truly
Leonard W. Colby.

Yours Cordially,
Marie Möller Colby

Division of the Third Army Corps, and was the ranking general in command at the time of the great review at that camp. He was afterward given command of the Second Brigade, Second Division of the Fourth Army Corps, and was thereafter for some time in command of the camp and the division at Anniston, Alabama. In January, 1899, he was sent to Havana, Cuba, and upon his return to Washington, the last of February of that year, he was mustered out of the service, with the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. Upon his return to Nebraska, General Colby was appointed adjutant general of the state, which office he held from May 6, 1901, to February 20, 1903. On August 8, 1906, he was placed on the retired list, with the rank of brigadier general.

In November, 1876, General Colby was elected state senator to represent Gage and Jefferson counties, and in 1886 he was reëlected to the state senate, to represent Gage county. During the latter term he introduced fifty bills of importance, of which about thirty passed the senate, and of the latter number more than half became laws. In June, 1891, General Colby was appointed by President Harrison as assistant attorney general of the United States, his duties embracing, among other important litigation, the defense of claims for damages against the government and Indian tribes. These involved over ten thousand cases in the court of claims and the United States supreme court, and over forty million dollars. Upon his retirement from the department of justice he was employed by the Creeks, Cherokees, and Seminoles, three of the civilized tribes of Indians in Indian Territory, as their attorney in Washington, D. C., and during this employment he obtained a judgment against the government and in favor of the Cherokee Nation for the sum of $6,742,000.

Since the declaration of war against the imperial government of Germany, General Colby has been active in all patriotic and war measures in the interest of winning such war. At the commencement he tendered his services to the United States and to the state of Nebraska and requested to be recalled from the retired list into active service. He has been placed on the list of officers subject to call by the war department, and, having the personal assurance of Secretary of War Baker that his services will be required in the near future, he has passed his physical examination for such service. In the meantime he has served as government agent and attorney for the draft board, as chairman of the Gage County Council of Defense, as a member of the War Works Committee, and has taken an active part in the campaigns for the several Liberty Loans, the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. drives in the county and district.

General Colby has had a law office at Beatrice and been engaged in the practice of his profession in the several courts of the states and nation and has maintained his residence at Beatrice during all of the years since his location in the state in August, 1872. He is a member of the Society of Foreign Wars, Loyal Legion, Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish-American War Veterans, Aero League and Naval League of the United States, the Blue Lodge and Royal Arch Masons, the Red Men, Knights of Pythias, Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska Pioneers, the Nebraska and American Bar Associations, the Republican Club, and the Christian church at Beatrice.

Marie Möller Colby, wife of General Leonard Wright Colby, was born in Röbel, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, and is a daughter of John F. Möller and Marie Henrietta (Müller) Möller, both being of pure German stock, and of long established and well known families in the fatherland. The parents left their old German home on account of political oppression and came to the United States to enjoy the blessings of a free government, arriving in Lancaster county, Nebraska, in April, 1875, and locating on a farm three miles west of Firth. Six years later they moved to Roca, and on April 1, 1882, they removed to Beatrice, which has since been the family home. Mrs. Colby is the second of seven children, all of whom are living.

Mrs. Colby was educated in the public

schools of Beatrice and at the Western Normal College at Lincoln, and later took a course in the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. She has added to her general knowledge by systematic courses of reading, a Chautauqua course, travel in this country, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico and by thorough business training. She is a member of several social organizations and clubs of the city, and in addition to attending to her many business interests has time for church and social work, and to assist her husband in his many duties as well as manage her domestic affairs and care for her attractive home.

THOMAS LEPOIDEVIN. — This venerable citizen of Gage county is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, the prosperity that is his representing the results of his use of the advantages that have been afforded with the development of the natural resources of this favored section of the state, he having come to Gage county shortly before the admission of the state to the Union and having become one of the pioneer representatives of agricultural industry in Midland township. As a sterling citizen who has contributed generously to the material upbuilding of Gage county, he is entitled to recognition in this history.

As his name indicates, Mr. LePoidevin is of French lineage, and he was born on the beautiful island of Guernsey, in the English channel, on the 25th of March, 1840, the eldest of the seven children of Job and Rachel Le Poidevin, both of whom were born on the island of Guernsey, descendants of old and honored families of that island, many of the inhabitants of which still speak the old Norman French language. John, the second son, is a resident of Odell, Gage county; Rachel died at the old home on the island of Guernsey; Joseph is a resident of the state of New York; Amelia is living on the island of Guernsey; Alfred is a resident of New York state; and Alice died on the island of Guernsey, where the parents passed their entire lives. In the schools of his native island Thomas received his limited educational training in his youth, and it later became his to profit by the lessons gained and under the direction of that wisest of all teachers, experience. Within the reign of Queen Victoria of England he served seven years, in the English militia, and this experience is one to which he often reverts with special satisfaction now that England and France have become allied in fighting for humanity in the greatest war in the annals of history, for he feels a natural and inherent loyalty to both England and France.

In 1863, at the age of twenty-three years, Mr. LePoidevin came to the United States. Within a short time after arriving in the port of New York city he made his way to Racine county, Wisconsin, where he found employment at farm work. He continued his residence in the Badger state until 1866, when he came to Nebraska Territory and entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in what is now Midland township, Gage county. He forthwith began with vigor the work of reclaiming and developing his pioneer farm, and the first dwelling which he there erected was a modest house constructed of rough lumber from the native cottonwood timber, the little home being fourteen by sixteen feet and one and one-half stories in height,—a home superior to those of the average pioneers of the county, many of whom used primitive dugouts and sod houses. As prosperity attended his efforts Mr. LePoidevin made gradual improvements on his farm, to which he added by the purchase of an adjoining tract of eighty acres, and he provided a substantial and commodious house as the home for his family. In his pioneer experiences he relates that he cut his first crop of wheat with an old-time cradle, and that in those early days there were but two threshing machines in the entire county. He took a great interest in the movement which brought statehood to Nebraska and gave his help in other enterprises for the general good of the community. With the passing years he developed one of the valuable farms of Gage county, where he still retains ownership of a fine estate of two hundred and forty acres, well improved. He remained on his old home-

stead until 1903, when he removed to the city of Beatrice, where, still hale and vigorous, he and his devoted wife are enjoying the rewards of former years of earnest toil and endeavor, and where they are known and honored as venerable pioneer citizens of the county. Both are earnest members of the Christian church and he is a Republican in politics. He has never sought public office but while residing on his farm he served for a number of years as school director for his district.

On the 5th of December, 1867, he married Miss Teanna Tanner, who was born in the fair little republic of Switzerland, on January 16, 1847, and who was about eight years old when her parents, John and Babette Tanner, came to America and established their home at Etna, Licking county, Ohio. From that state they came to Nebraska in the year 1867, and the father obtained a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, east of Beatrice, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives in this county and their names having a place on the roll of the pioneers of this section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. LePoidevin became the parents of ten children, and it is most gratifying to record that death has never yet invaded the family circle. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children: Adelia is the wife of Lincoln Thornburg, a successful farmer of Midland township; Almeda is the wife of Edward Essam, living five miles east of Beatrice; John is a prosperous farmer in Rockford township; Bertha, who resides at Beatrice, is the widow of Hanford Chase; Mabel is the wife of Merl Hughes, of this county; Ezra is a successful farmer and resides eight miles north of Beatrice; Charles is a representative exponent of agricultural industry in Midland township; and Marie, Josephine and Ceba remain at the parental home,—an attractive residence at 522 South Ninth street, Beatrice.

JOHN S. JONES has been a resident of Gage county since his childhood and has here, in his mature years, found ample opportunity for the achieving of success worthy of the name. Here he has been closely identified with banking enterprise during the entire course of his active business career, and of the same he is now a prominent representative in the county. He holds the position of cashier of the First National Bank of Wymore, which is recognized as one of the leading financial institutions of Gage county, and to the advancement of the interests of which his careful and progressive administrative policies have largely contributed. Mr. Jones is essentially one of the representative citizens and business men of the thriving little city of Wymore and is properly accorded consideration in this history, — a publication on whose advisory board he has served during the period of compilation.

John S. Jones was born on a farm near Williamsburg, Iowa, and the date of his nativity was August 3, 1877. He is a son of John S. and Ann S. (Lloyd) Jones, both natives of Wales and representatives of staunch old families of that portion of the great British empire. John S. Jones, Sr., was born in Wales in September, 1844, a son of Thomas Jones, and in his native land he was reared and educated. As a youth he became associated with the great coal-mining industry in Wales, and he was twenty-seven years of age when he came to the United States. His prior experience readily gained to him employment in coal mines in Pennsylvania, but after remaining about two years in the old Keystone state he removed to Iowa county, Iowa, and turned his attention to farm enterprise, in the vicinity of Williamsburg. There he continued operations along this line for a period of four years, and he then, in 1881, came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence on a farm four miles south of Wymore. There he gave his active supervision to the work and improvement of his farm until the time of his death, which occurred July 10, 1888. His marriage to Miss Ann S. Lloyd, daughter of John and Elizabeth Lloyd, was solemnized in Wales and his young wife accompanied him on his immigation to America; she is still living and resides with her youngest daughter, at Wymore. John S. and Ann S. (Lloyd) Jones

became the parents of eight children, all of whom are now married and well established in life, all save the eldest of the number having been born after the family home was established in the United States. The names of the children are here noted in the respective order of birth: Elizabeth, Sarah Ann, Maggie, John S., Jr., Mary Ella, Robert V., Edith, and Luther Ellis.

John S. Jones, Jr., the immediate subject of this review, was about four years old at the time of the family removal to Gage county, and here he has since maintained his home. He was but ten years of age at the time of his father's death and as he was the eldest son large responsibilities thus early fell upon him in connection with the work and management of the home farm. He was associated with his devoted mother in carrying forward the activities of the farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-four years, his educational advantages in the meanwhile having been those of the district schools and of the high school at Wymore, where he was a student two years. Upon leaving the farm Mr. Jones assigned its management to his brother Robert and became bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Wymore. One year later he was tendered and accepted the position of assistant cashier of the newly organized State Bank of Wymore, of which he was made cashier two years later. In 1907 this well ordered institution received charter as a national bank and was incorporated with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Jones continued as cashier of the bank until its building was destroyed by fire, in 1910, and in that year its stockholders and directors made a move of distinctive expediency and wisdom, in purchasing the stock and business of the First National Bank. Upon the consolidation of the two institutions the title of First National Bank of Wymore was retained, and Mr. Jones has continued as cashier of the vital and substantial institution to the present time. The bank bases its operations on a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, its surplus fund is ten thousand dollars and its deposits are now in excess of six hundred and fifty thousand dollars

Mr. Jones is loyal and progressive as a citizen and is always ready to given his co-operation in the furtherance of projects advanced for the general good of his home city and county. In politics he is found staunchly aligned in the ranks of the Republican party, and he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Epicopal church of Wymore. Mr. Jones is affiliated with Wymore Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, of which he is past master; with Hiram Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of which he is past high priest, and with Mount Herman Commandery, Knights Templars, in the city of Beatrice, besides which he holds membership in Sesotris Temple of the Mystic Shrine, in the city of Lincoln, and in Violet Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, at Wymore, of which latter he is serving as worthy patron in 1918, his wife being likewise affiliated with this chapter. Mr. Jones takes specially deep interest in educational affairs and is serving at the time of this writing as president of the Wymore board of education.

On the 28th of June, 1905, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jones to Miss Mary Elizabeth Roberts, who was born near Iowa City, Iowa, on the 9th of January, 1878, her parents soon afterward coming to Gage county, Nebraska, where they still maintain their home. The names and respective dates of birth of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Jones are here entered: Gordon John, October 12, 1908; Eleanor May, May 19, 1911; and Dwight, July 4, 1914.

In connection with the nation's participation in the great world war Mr. Jones has been very active in Red Cross and Liberty Loan work, with a spirit of loyalty that prompts him to give to the government and its gallant military and naval forces every possible assistance.

SIMON B. HARTZELL, a progressive farmer of Rockford township, was born March 21, 1879, and was an infant at the time when his parents established their home in Gage county. He is a son of Eli E. Hartzell, who is now living retired at Holmesville, this county. Eli E. Hartzell was born in Mahon-

ing county, Ohio, March 19, 1837, and his parents, George and Jane (Smart) Hartzell, who were born and reared in Pennsylvania, removed in an early day from the old Keystone state to Ohio. Eli E. Hartzell received in his youth the advantages of the common schools and as a young man he went to Indiana, where he engaged in the lumber business. Later he resided, for intervals of varying duration, in Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and in 1881 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska. He settled in Riverside township, and there he continued his successful activities as a farmer for fully twenty years. Several years ago he removed to Arkansas, but after remaining there a short time he returned to Gage county, where he has since lived virtually retired and where he now maintains his home at Holmesville. His wife, whose maiden name was Miralda Quigley and who was a resident of Mahoning county, Ohio, at the time of their marriage, was born December 13, 1840, a daughter of Dr. Quigley, her father having been a physician and having been engaged in the practice of his profession in Ohio for more than half a century. Eli E. and Miralda Hartzell became the parents of seven children: Willis is deceased; Rush and Jay are engaged in farm enterprise in Nemaha township, this county; Homer is a resident of Portland, Oregon; Mary, who became the wife of Rev. Gustave Briegleb, is deceased; Simon Bert, of this review, was the next in order of birth; Harry is a physician and surgeon by profession and is engaged in practice at Eldorado, Kansas.

Eli E. Hartzell, who has passed the age of four score years, is one of the venerable and highly honored citizens of Gage county, and is a man of broad mental grasp, a citizen who has been loyal in all of the relations of life. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Simon Bert Hartzell gained his early education in the schools of Gage county, including the public schools of the city of Beatrice, and his initial activities as an independent farmer were conducted on land owned by his father. Later he was engaged for eleven years in the operation of a farm in Hanover township, under a Scully lease, and three years ago he purchased his present fine farm, in Rockford township, the same comprising two hundred acres. When he purchased the property it was not provided with buildings, as those formerly on the place had been swept away by a cyclone, a few years previously, the disaster being the more malign by reason of the fact that on the farm two persons were killed at the time. Mr. Hartzell erected a good house on the farm and also provided a modern barn and other requisite farm buildings. He gives his attention to diversified agriculture, raises and feeds cattle for the market and is proving successful in all departments of his vigorous farm enterprise.

Mr. Hartzell married Miss Jewell Hickman, who was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of the late J. T. and Sarah (Piper) Hickman. Mr. and Mrs Hartzell have four children — Ruth, Blanche, Simon B., Jr., and Raymond.

Mr. Hartzell is a member of the school board of his district and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist church.

DAVID GRAF has been a resident of Gage county since 1875 and for more than forty years he and his wife have maintained their home on their present farm, in Section 4, Midland township. His sons now have the active management of his extensive farm estate and he and his wife are, under most gracious environment and associations, enjoying the generous prosperity and comfort that properly crown their former years of earnest endeavor — sterling pioneer citizens to whom is accorded the fullest measure of popular esteem.

David Graf was born on his father's farm in Northville township, LaSalle county, Illinois, September 27, 1845, the second in order of birth in a family of six sons and four daughters, and of the number seven are still living. The honored father, Samuel Graf, was born and reared in the fair little republic of Switzerland and was a young man when he

MRS. DAVID GRAF

DAVID GRAF

came to America and in the state of Pennsylvania found employment at his trade, that of tailor. In Somerset county, that state, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Louise Anna Parker, and about the year 1833 they numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of La Salle county, Illinois. There Mr. Graf reclaimed and improved one of the excellent farms of Northville township, and upon this homestead he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, he having passed away in 1876, at the age of seventy-five years, and his widow having been one hundred years of age at the time of her death, which occurred in October, 1916. Both were zealous members of the Presbyterian church.

David Graf was reinforced for his later service through the experience he gained on the old homestead farm in Illinois, where his early educational advantages were those afforded in the district schools of his native county. There he continued his active association with farm enterprise until he had attained to the age of twenty-seven years, when he found employment as a farm hand, working by the month. In 1875 he came to Gage county, where his father had purchased for the sons six eighty-acre tracts of land, and on one of these tracts, east of Beatrice, the subject of this sketch initiated his independent activities as a farmer. The following year he purchased his present homestead place of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 4, Midland township, where he and his gracious wife have continuously maintained their residence during the long intervening years, which have been marked by constantly increasing prosperity, won through earnest and honest endeavor on their part. On the place the original home of the family was a frame shanty that had been erected by the previous owner, Andrew J. Pethoud, who was one of the earliest settlers of the county and did much important surveying work in the early days. This primitive house continued as the Graf abode for fifteen years, and then removal was made to the commodious and attractive frame house which Mr. and Mrs. Graf now occupy, the buildings which he has erected on his farm property being among the finest in the township and being kept in the best of repair — a fitting token of thrift and prosperity. Mr. Graf is now the owner of a fine landed estate of two hundred acres and his wife owns farm property of equal area in the same township. Vigorous and progressive policies always marked the activities of Mr. Graf as an agriculturist and stockgrower, and the principles which he thus inculcated in his sons have caused them to follow with equal efficiency the same policies in their management of the fine estate owned by him and his wife.

In LaSalle county, Illinois, March 3, 1875, recorded the marriage of Mr. Graf to Miss Adeline Hazemann, who was there born March 25, 1856, her parents, Jonathan G. and Amelia (Smith) Hazemann, having been natives of France and having become pioneer settlers of LaSalle county, Illinois, where they passed the residue of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Graf have four children: Alpha D. and John G. remain with their parents and have the active management of the home farm; Clarence D., who is a successful farmer in Filley township, married Miss Elizabeth Jensen and they have three children; Fordyce H., the maiden name of whose wife was Hazel Burket, is serving, in 1917-1918, as city clerk of Beatrice, judicial center of the county.

Mr. Graf has been distinctively the supporter of civic and industrial progress and development in Gage county and while he has shown loyal interest in community affairs and given staunch support to the cause of the Democratic party he has never consented to serve in official positions other than those of road supervisor and school director. He and his wife are earnest members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, and they are genial and kindly pioneer citizens whose circle of friends in Gage county is limited only by that of their acquaintances.

GEORGE HUNKLE, secretary and manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company, at Holmesville, in Rockford township, is one of the leading exponents of the grain business in

this part of the county and is held in high esteem in the county that has represented his home for more than thirty years. He was born in the state of New York, June 1, 1876, and as he was left an orphan in early childhood he has no definite information concerning the family history. He was placed in an orphans' home in New York city, and when nine years of age he was sent with other boys from that institution to Nebraska, where he became a member of the family circle of William Woolsey, a farmer in Lincoln township, Gage county. Here he was reared to manhood and received the advantages of the local schools. He remained with his foster-parents until he had attained to his legal majority and for some time thereafter he was independently engaged in farm enterprise in Lincoln township. He then went to the village of Ellis, where he learned the trade of telegraphist, and after having been employed as an operator at Jansen and Plymouth, Nebraska, he returned to Ellis, Gage county, and engaged in the grain business. In December, 1901, he was made manager of the firm's business and of this position he continued the incumbent until the business was sold to Black Brothers, with whom he continued in a similar capacity, at Holmesville, until they sold their elevator and business to the Farmers' Elevator Company, in 1913, since which time he has given most efficient service as secretary and manager of this company. Mr. Hunkle is a Republican in politics, and is affiliated with the Ellis Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as is he also with Beatrice Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

In 1912 Mr. Hunkle wedded Miss Fannie Lemmel, who was born in Saline county, this state, a daughter of Philip and Eliza Lemmel, the former of whom is deceased and the latter of whom now resides in the city of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Hunkle have a fine little son, Donald G.

CHARLES J. McCOLL has been a resident of Gage county since 1888 and in the city of Beatrice he has long controlled a substantial and representative business as a skilled painter and paperhanger, his pleasant home being at 225 North LaSelle street. A scion of the staunchest of Scottish ancestry, Mr. McColl was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, on the 13th of August, 1852, a son of James and Mary (McGinness) McColl, who the next year, 1853, immigrated to America and established their home in York county, Province of Ontario, Canada, where the father became the owner of a small farm and where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. Of their eleven children the subject of this review is now the only survivor. After the death of James McColl his widow engaged in the dairy business, and by her energy and ability she made the enterprise distinctly successful. Both were members of the Presbyterian church.

Reared to adult age in York county, Ontario, Charles J. McColl received in his youth but limited educational advantages, but in connection with the practical affairs of life he has effectively made good this handicap. In the city of Toronto he learned in his youth the trade of painting and graining, and after there following his trade for a number of years he decided to identify himself with the progressive western section of the United States. On the 1st of May, 1888, he arrived in the city of Beatrice, and here he has since continued his residence, the while he has been consecutively engaged in business as a painter and paperhanger, in which field of enterprise he has built up a prosperous business that makes him one of the leading exponents of the same in the judicial center and metropolis of Gage county.

March 6, 1881, recorded the marriage of Mr. McColl to Miss Susan Bates, who was born in Huron county, Ontario, Canada, a daughter of Thomas and Susan (Sterling) Bates, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Scotland. In Canada Mr. Bates followed the trade of plasterer and there both he and his wife continued to reside until their death. Mr. and Mrs. McColl became the parents of three children: Ethel died at the age of twenty-three years; Eva is a popular teacher in the Central school in the city of Beatrice.

and Mary is an efficient teacher in the high school at Shickley, Nebraska. Mrs. McColl and her daughters are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. McColl is affiliated with the Knights & Ladies of Security, the Order of Ancient Foresters, and the Ancient Order of Shepherds, in each of which he has passed all of the official chairs. In politics he has been a staunch Republican during the entire period of his residence as a naturalized citizen in the United States, and he has been influential in political affairs in Gage county. While a resident of St. Thomas, Canada, he served as a member of the city council, and this experience gave him special resourcefulness when he was called upon to give similar service as a member of the city council of Beatrice. His ability and popularity marked him as an eligible candidate for higher official preferment, and in 1908 he was elected representative of Gage county in the Nebraska legislature, in which he served one term. Though the lower house of the legislature was strongly Democratic, Mr. McColl proved a strong minority leader and was assigned to various important committees, including those on public lands and buildings, towns and cities, and labor and insurance.

JACOB ESSAM has been a resident of Gage county since he was a youth of eighteen years and by his well ordered industry and enterprise has gained secure vantage-place as one of the representative farmers of Midland township, where he is the owner of a well improved farm property of four hundred acres, his attractive homestead place being situated in Section 24, on rural mail route No. 3 from the city of Beatrice, which is about four and one-half miles distant.

Mr. Essam was born in Schuyler county, Illinois, May 10, 1863, was there reared on his father's farm and there acquired his early education in the district schools. He is a son of James and Susanna (Fitz) Essam, both natives of York county, Pennsylvania, where the former was born April 8, 1834, and the latter on the 12th of May, 1840. James Essam was a young man when he removed from the old Keystone state and settled in Illinois, where his activities as a farmer were carried on first in Fulton and later in Schuyler county. In 1880 he disposed of his property in Illinois and came with his family to Gage county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Logan township. He improved one of the excellent farms of the county and continued to reside on the old homestead until his death, which occurred August 22, 1902, his widow having been summoned to the life eternal on the 5th of May, 1909. Both were earnest members of the Dunkard church and exemplified their faith in their daily lives, their names meriting enduring place on the roster of the honored pioneers of Gage county. Of their eight children the firstborn is Henry, who is a prosperous farmer in Riverside township; Jacob, of this review, was the next in order of birth; Mary is the wife of James Canning and they reside in the state of Kansas; Edward is a successful farmer in Logan township; Miss Rebecca resides in the city of Beatrice, and is the homekeeper for her bachelor brother, John, the next younger of the children; Charles likewise resides in Beatrice; and Harvey resides upon and operates his father's old home farm, in Logan township.

As previously intimated, Jacob Essam was a youth of eighteen years when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, and for some time thereafter he was employed by the month at farm work, his compensation being twelve and one-half dollars a month. For several years he farmed on rented land and it was about twenty-five years ago that he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, the old homestead of his father-in-law, in Midland township. This proved to be the nucleus of the large and valuable landed estate of four hundred acres which he has since accumulated through his energetic and well directed activities as an agriculturist and stock-raiser, and he has made many permanent improvements of excellent order on his property, including the rebuilding and remodeling of the house on his homestead and the erection of other

farm buildings of model type and facilities. Mr. Essam is one of the substantial and popular citizens of Midland township, where he has served fifteen years in the office of township treasurer and for many years as a member of the school board of his district. He is independent of strict partisan lines in politics and gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. His wife is an active member of the Christian church.

February 14, 1880, recorded the marriage of Mr. Essam to Miss Mary E. Bartram, who was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, a daughter of William and Mary Bartram, with whom she came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1878, her parents settling on the farm which is now the homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Essam, both having here passed the remainder of their lives and Mr. Essam having purchased the farm at the time when the property was placed on sale in the final adjustment of the estate. Mr. and Mrs. Essam have four children: James, the maiden name of whose wife was Esta Doan, is a prosperous farmer in Midland township; Bessie is the wife of Ezra LePoidevin, a farmer in Holt township; Evart remains at the parental home and is associated with his father in the work and management of the farm; and Gilbert, who married Miss Pearl Bible, is one of the progressive young farmers of Midland township.

JOHN W. BURGESS, treasurer of the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, which is the most important industrial corporation not only in the city of Beatrice but also in Gage county, has been for more than thirty years actively and prominently identified with the civic and business affairs in Beatrice and he is properly accorded recognition in this history.

John Warren Burgess was born in Cook county, Illinois, on the 3d of November, 1865, and is a son of Eli and Marietta (Childs) Burgess, who were born in Saratoga county, New York. Their marriage was solemnized in the old Empire state and thence they removed to Cook county, Illinois, prior to the Civil war. Eli Burgess was a man of staunch character and of much intellectual ability. In the earlier period of his career he was a successful teacher in the public schools and thereafter he was engaged in the mercantile business for some time. He became a farmer near Dundee, Illinois, and finally removed from the farm to that village, where he continued to be engaged in mercantile enterprise until his death, his wife also having there passed the closing years of her life. They became the parents of four sons, of whom the eldest is Edwin A., a civil engineer by profession and a resident of the city of Chicago; Arthur C. still resides at Dundee, Illinois, where he is a representative business man; William E. is deceased; and John W., of this review, is the youngest of the number.

The lineage of the Burgess family traces back to Welsh origin and the Childs family was one of early settlement in the state of New York, where members of the family married representatives of the fine old Van Tassell family, whose name is linked with the founding of the early Holland Dutch colonies in the Empire state.

The early educational advantages of John W. Burgess were those afforded in the public schools of his native state, and after having attended the high school at Dundee he was for one year a student in Wheaton College, at Wheaton, Illinois, after which he completed a normal course in what is now Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, Indiana. As a representative of the pedagogic profession he taught in the public schools of Henry and Kane counties, Illinois, besides which he gave effective service in the office of superintendent of schools for the latter county.

In the autumn of 1887 Mr. Burgess came to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he has since been actively associated with the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, of which he is a stockholder and director and of which he has served long and effectively as treasurer. He has done much to further the upbuilding of this large and important industrial corporation and as a citizen has shown marked loyalty and progressiveness. He and his wife

hold membership in the Presbyterian church.

In December, 1891, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Burgess to Miss Sarah E. Dempster, who, like her husband, was graduated in the institution now known as Valparaiso University. Mr. and Mrs. Burgess have three sons: Warren C., who is a graduate of the University of Colorado, is now in the employ of the Westinghouse Electrical Manufacturing Company; Harold D. is a student, in 1918, in the University of Kansas; and John Paul is a student in the Beatrice high school.

JOHN I. McGIRR, M. D. — In promoting general efficiency along all lines of human endeavor there has come in these later years a distinct recognition of the supreme value of concentration of effort, and this is specially true in the medical profession, in which exponents find the maximum success and are able to give the most benignant service through devoting their attention to perfecting themselves and exploiting special departments of practice. In Gage county Dr. McGirr has gained exceptional prestige by such concentration and he gives his time and attention primarily to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. He maintains his residence and professional headquarters in the city of Beatrice and is known, through his character and high professional attainments, as one of the representative physicians and surgeons of this part of the state.

Dr. McGirr was born at Reddick, Kankakee county, Illinois, on the 23d of March, 1873, and in his native commonwealth he received his rudimentary education, his age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska having been twelve years. The Doctor is a son of Francis M. and Judith (Barkey) McGirr, the former of whom was born in the fair Old Emerald Isle, a scion of a family of patrician antecedents and superior educational status, and the latter of whom was born in the state of Pennsylvania, their marriage having been solemnized in the state of Illinois. Francis M. McGirr was reared and educated in his native land, where he received excellent advantages, his father, Joseph McGirr, who continued to maintain his home in Ireland until his death, at the venerable age of eighty-five years, having been a man of fine intellectuality and having served many years as a schoolmaster, in which connection it may be noted that he spoke and taught eight different languages. Francis M. McGirr was a young man when he came to the United States and that his loyalty to the land of his adoption was of perfervid order needs no further voucher than the statement that he went forth as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, in which conflict he served three years, as a member of Battery K, First Illinois Light Artillery. During his later years of residence in Nebraska he perpetuated the more gracious memories of his military career through affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic, and in all of the relations of life he exemplified the same instinctive loyalty and high sense of personal stewardship that prompted him thus to defend in his young manhood the righteous cause through which was perpetuated our national integrity. His wife was a girl at the time of her parents' removal from the old Keystone state to Illinois, where she was reared and educated, her father, the late Enos Barkey, having finally removed with his family to Nebraska and become one of the early settlers of Gage county, where he was a prosperous farmer and where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives.

After the close of the Civil war Francis M. McGirr engaged in farming in Kankakee county, Illinois, and in that state he remained until 1885, when he came with his family to Nebraska and purchased land in Gage county. Here he developed one of the valuable farms of the county and he continued to reside upon his old homestead until 1901, when he removed to the city of Beatrice, his death having here occurred in 1905, and his widow having passed to eternal rest in 1913. Mr. McGirr was one of the honored and influential citizens of Gage county, a man of broad mental ken and well fortified convictions, and he commanded the unequivocal respect of his fellow men. He was reared in and ever held

to the faith of the Catholic church, and his wife was a member of the Mennonite church. They are survived by four children: Edward B. is successfully engaged in the real-estate business at Beatrice; Frederick O. is engaged in the practice of his profession at Beatrice, as a representative member of the Gage county bar, and is serving, 1917-1918, in the office of supreme court commissioner; Dr. McGirr, of this review, was the next in order of birth; and Virgil E. is a retired farmer residing in Beatrice: he served as deputy sheriff of Gage county and for several terms as chief of police of Beatrice.

As previously stated, Dr. McGirr was a lad of twelve years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, and he was reared to maturity in Gage county, where he continued to attend the public schools until he had profited by the advantages of the Beatrice high school. Thereafter he pursued higher academic studies in Western Normal College, in the city of Lincoln, and in preparation for the work of his chosen profession he went to the city of Omaha, where he was matriculated in the medical department of the University of Nebraska. Here he completed the prescribed curriculum and was graduated as a member of the class of 1897. After thus receiving his coveted degree of Doctor of Medicine he engaged in the general practice of his profession at Ellis, Gage county, where he remained three years. In the meanwhile he determined that he could expand his field of service and usefulness by devoting himself to special phases of professional work, and to fortify himself properly for such service he took effective post-graduate work in a leading medical school of New York city and later in one of the important institutions in Vienna, Austria. In each of these connections he gave special attention to study and clinical work pertaining to the diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat, and in 1901 he established his residence in the city of Beatrice, where he now gives his close and efficient attention to his special domain of practice, in which he has gained repute as one of the leading eye, ear, nose, and throat specialists in this section of the state, so that his practice is derived in appreciable part from points outside of local environs. The Doctor controls a large and representative practice, keeps in close touch with the advances made in medical and surgical science and is unremitting in his study of the best standard and periodical literature of his profession. He holds membership in the American Medical Association and is one of the active and valued members of the Nebraska State Medical Society, of which he has served as vice-president, and of the Gage County Medical Society, of which he was formerly secretary. The Doctor owns his attractive residence property in the city of Beatrice and also a valuable farm near Pickrell, this county. As a broad-gauged and progressive citizen he gives his coöperation in the furtherance of measures and enterprises tending to conserve the communal welfare, and his political allegiance is accorded to the Democratic party. He is prominently identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is affiliated with both the local and encampment bodies, as well as with the auxilliary organization, the Daughters of Rebekah, and he is past grand of Beatrice Lodge, No. 187, of the Odd Fellows, besides having represented the same as a delegate to the grand lodge of Nebraska. He gives liberal support to the Baptist church of Beatrice, of which his wife is an active member.

In June, 1915, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. McGirr to Miss Myrtle Gue, who was born and reared at York, the judicial center of the Nebraska county of the same name, and the one child of this union is a son — John I., Jr., born November 6, 1916.

JOHN PETHOUD. — Ten years prior to the time when the Territory of Nebraska was transformed into a new state of the Union the late John Pethoud became a pioneer of what is now Gage county, and his was the distinction of turning the first furrow that was ever plowed on Gage county soil. A man of superior intellectuality and dauntless spirit, Judge Pethoud represented the finest type of pioneer, and it was his to wield large and

benignant influence in the formative period of the history of southeastern Nebraska. This publication exercises a most consistent function when it accords a tribute to his memory.

John Pethoud was of French ancestry and was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, in August, 1798, the place of his nativity having been a tract of land that had been a French grant to the Pethoud family. His parents were called upon to meet the trials and hardships incidental to the pioneer period in the history of the old Buckeye state, and there he was reared to manhood, his early educational advantages having been limited, as a matter of course, but his alert mind and broad intellectual grasp having eventually made him a man of exceptional mentality and mature judgment. In his native state he became familiarly known as Esquire Pethoud, doubtless owing to the fact of his having served in the office of justice of the peace.

In 1857, in company with Edward Austin and H. J. Pierce, Judge Pethoud set forth for the wilds of Nebraska Territory. The three venturesome pioneers made the journey down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers by boat and upon arriving at some point near the Nebraska line, they bought ox teams and wagons, with which they continued their way to what is now Gage county. Within the limits of the county as then existing Judge Pethoud entered a preëmption claim, for which he paid two hundred dollars. Gage and old Clay counties then lay contiguous and he built his modest frontier house on the Gage county side of the line, thus becoming the first settler in Gage county as then constituted. The land which he thus obtained from the government is now owned by David Graf and lies in Midland township. On this pioneer farm Judge Pethoud continued to reside until his death, which occurred September 5, 1883, after he had attained to the venerable age of eighty-five years. He was buried on that farm.

Judge Pethoud was a great reader and student, was well informed concerning history and current events, and though he was not specifically a professor of religion he was a deep student of the Bible, with which he was familiar from cover to cover, and he had an abiding appreciation of the spiritual verities of the Christian faith. He was a man of strong convictions and prejudices, but both were usually well taken, and he guided his life according to the highest principles of integrity and honor. Though he was a resident of Gage county, he was called upon to serve as the first judge of the probate court of Clay county.

In Ohio was solemnized the marriage of Judge Pethoud to Miss Mary Thompson, who was born in Pennsylvania, and she shared with him in the experiences of life on the frontier after their home had been established in Nebraska. Concerning their children brief record is given, in conclusion of this memoir: Mrs. Cynthia Ann Blankenship was a resident of Ohio at the time of her death, which occurred more than sixty years ago; Elizabeth was the wife of John Wilson, one of the early pioneer settlers of Logan township, Gage county; Francis M. was a resident of Midland township at the time of his death, and to him a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume; John T. is deceased, as are also Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Andrew J., and James K. P. All of the children except the eldest became residents of Gage county and the family name is one that has been signally prominent and honored in connection with the county's history.

KIRK GRIGGS. — In Sections 30 and 31 Blakely township is situated the well improved farm estate of Kirk Griggs, the place comprising six hundred acres and being given over to diversified agriculture and stock-growing. The owner has gained special success and precedence as a breeder of Holstein cattle, Hampshire swine, and Shire horses, and has made numerous exhibitions of his fine stock at various county fairs. He is one of the most progressive stock-growers of the county that has represented his home from the time of his birth and in which his parents were pioneer settlers.

Mr. Griggs was born at Beatrice, this

county, on the 8th of January, 1873, and is a son of Lewis T. and Caroline (Gale) Griggs, of whose five children he was the fourth in order of birth; Mollie is the wife of Frederick W. Daniels, of Sheridan, Oregon; George L. is a resident of the city of Alliance; Clifton C. resides at Eureka, Utah; and Burt resides at Buffalo, Wyoming. Lewis T. Griggs was born in Ohio, on the 17th of April, 1843, a son of Lucien and Mary T. (Kirk) Griggs, and in the old Buckeye state he was reared on the home farm, with such educational advantages as were afforded in the common schools of the locality. He was a youth of eighteen years at the inception of the Civil war and he tendered his aid in defense of the Union by enlisting, early in 1862, as a member of the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, with which gallant command he participated in many battles and important campaigns, it having been his fortune to receive a wound while taking part in the battle of Chickamauga. He was with his command in the battle of Fort Donelson and those of Lookout Mountain and Vicksburg, besides which he was with General Sherman on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea. In 1864 he was promoted to the office of first lieutenant, and as such he served until the close of the war, when he received his honorable discharge. After the war he returned to Indiana, to which state his parents had removed from Ohio, and in 1866 he and his half-brother, Thomas J. Griggs, each entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Pawnee county, Nebraska Territory. On his pioneer homestead, seven miles southeast of the present thriving town of Liberty, Lewis T. Griggs erected a small house, the material for which he transported with team and wagon from Nebraska City. He instituted the development of his farm and in due time perfected his title to the property. In 1869 he wedded Miss Caroline Gale and soon afterward they established their residence at Beatrice, which was then a mere frontier village. On the site of the present Beatrice National Bank he had a little store in which he engaged in the handling of agricultural implements and machinery, and here he continued his successful operations in this line of enterprise until 1883, when he removed with his family to Atchison, Kansas, where he became a representative of one of the leading harvesting machine companies, the death of his wife having there occurred in 1885. Soon afterward he returned to Beatrice, and thereafter he was a traveling salesman for agricultural implements until 1888. In that year he removed to Newcastle, Wyoming, prior to the extension of the railroad to that locality, and there he became a successful exponent of stock-raising industry, with which he continued to be identified until his death, which occurred November 11, 1908. He was one of the influential pioneers of Weston county, Wyoming, where he served as clerk of the court and also as county attorney, he having studied law previously and having been admitted to the bar in the early '70s. At Newcastle, Wyoming, he engaged in the practice of his profession, as one of the leading members of the bar of Weston county, and in a fraternal way he was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and the Grand Army of the Republic, in which last named organization he was a charter member of Rawlins Post, at Beatrice. His wife was born in the western part of Massachusetts and was reared by kinsfolk, members of the Gale family having been numbered among the early settlers of Gage county. Coming to this county prior to the admission of Nebraska to the Union, Mrs. Griggs became one of the early and popular teachers in the village schools of Beatrice, she having been, in fact, one of the first teachers thus rendering service in the little frontier village that has become one of the attractive and prosperous cities of the state. She was forty-two years of age at the time of her death, June 13, 1883, and was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Upon coming to Gage county, in 1867, Mrs. Griggs, two years prior to her marriage, entered a homestead claim, and a considerable part of this property is now included in the Glenover addition to the city of Beatrice.

Kirk Griggs, immediate subject of this review, was born in a house that stood on the site of the present Beatrice high school building, and his youthful education was gained in the schools of this city and those of Newcastle, Wyoming, where the family home was established when he was a lad of twelve years. That he profited by these advantages is shown by the fact that he proved himself eligible for pedagogic honors and was for six months engaged in teaching in a rural school in Wyoming. In that state he remained on his father's extensive cattle ranch until he had attained to the age of twenty years, and for sixteen years thereafter he was successfully identified with railroad construction enterprise, with Kilpatrick Brothers and later with the McArthur Company, leading New York contractors in this line of enterprise. His first service was in the capacity of stenographer, but later he became allied closely with the practical executive details of construction work, in which connection he organized camps of workmen, acted as auditor and superintendent and proved in all ways a vigorous and resourceful executive.

In 1913 Mr. Griggs purchased of his former employers, Kilpatrick Brothers, his present fine landed estate in his native county, and in the same year he erected his present modern and attractive residence, at a cost of six thousand dollars. His farm is one of the best improved and most effectively equipped of all in the county, and on the same he has two artesian wells, the while his modern facilities including a gas-lighting system for his house. After his return from the west Mr. Griggs purchased the house of his birth, in the city of Beatrice, and this property he finally sold to the board of education as a site for the present modern high school building. A man of thought and action, Mr. Griggs has become one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers, as well as a popular and representative citizen of his native county. His political support is given to the Republican party and he is serving at the time of this writing as a director of school district No. 22. Both he and his wife are active members of the Christian church.

June 12, 1901, recorded the marriage of Mr. Griggs to Miss Mabel C. Pyrtle, the younger of the two children of James and Nancy E. (Murphy) Pyrtle, the former of whom was born in Missouri, in 1847, and the latter in Indiana, on the 15th of September, 1852. Mrs. Griggs, prior to her marriage, had been for five years a successful and popular teacher in the schools of Gage county, her work including four years' service in the city schools of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Griggs have four children — Theodore, Roger, Gale, and Jessie M.

HENRY FISHBACH. — Under the general communal conditions and exigencies of the present day no city can claim definite metropolitan facilities if there has been failure to provide proper accommodations for the conserving of food stuffs, and Beatrice is signally favored in this respect, as the city takes just pride in the excellent service given by the large and modern plant of the Beatrice Cold Storage Company, of which Henry Fishbach was the founder and of which he has continuously been the executive head. In establishing this important enterprise Mr. Fishbach demonstrated alike his civic loyalty and his progressiveness as a business man, and through his careful and effective administration the business has been developed from a modest inception to one of large volume and definite success.

Mr. Fishbach was born at Franklin Grove, Lee county, Illinois, on the 16th of October, 1859, and is a son of Philip and Catherine (Hausknecht) Fishbach, both of whom were born in the now devastated province of Alsace-Lorraine, which was then an integral part of French domain and which has again become the stage of terrible polemic activities incidental to the great war in which France is again arrayed against Germany. The parents of Mr. Fishbach were young at the time of the immigration of the respective families to America and both families established residence in the state of Illinois, in the pioneer

history of that commonwealth. Philip Fishbach devoted the greater part of his active life to his trade, that of stone-cutter, and both he and his wife continued their residence at Franklin Grove, Illinois, until their death — folk of sterling character and honored by all who knew them. To the public schools of his native county Henry Fishbach is indebted for his early educational training and there he continued to reside until he had attained to the age of nineteen years, when he went to the state of Colorado and turned his attention to farm work and other service that would give him a living recompense. He remained in Colorado three years and then returned to Illinois, where he was engaged in agricultural enterprise, in Lee county, until 1884. In the year last mentioned he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and though he had virtually no financial resources he had an abundance of ambition and self-reliance, as shown by the fact that he purchased eighty acres of land, in Greenwoood township, assuming indebtedness for practically the entire purchase price. The land had received but the slightest improvement, and for the first seven years of his residence on his embryonic farm Mr. Fishbach used as his house a primitive granery that had been constructed on the place. Energy and industry brought returns, and eventually Mr. Fishbach was able not only to clear himself of the burden of debt but also to add eighty acres to the area of his landed estate. He made good improvements upon his farm property, brought the greater part of the land under effective cultivation, and there continued his vigorous activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower for a period of nine years. That he had been successful is shown by the fact that in 1893, in company with his wife, he visited the great World's Columbian Exposition, in the city of Chicago, and in this connection his alert mind caused him to see an opportunity for the development of a prosperous business enterprise in his home county. His attention was called, while in Chicago, to a carload of live poultry that was being sent in for the use of consumers in the city, and he soon decided to establish himself in the poultry business in Gage county. To carry out his plans he purchased the small poultry business that had been established by a man named Greening, at Beatrice, and two years later he removed his business to the site of his present well equipped cold-storage plant, his original place of business having been in a building that was only ten by twelve feet in dimensions. Bringing to bear his characteristic energy and good judgment and having secure place in popular confidence and good will, Mr. Fishbach caused his business to expand substantially and normally in scope and importance, and to keep pace with demands he enlarged his quarters from time to time. In 1906, as a matter of business expediency, he effected the incorporation of the Beatrice Cold Storage Company, of which he has since been the president and active manager. His plant for cold-storage is of modern type in all respects and as an important adjunct to the same he has established a plant for the manufacturing of ice, besides conducting a creamery in connection and doing also a substantial business in the manufacturing of ice cream for the trade. Natural ice is harvested to supplement the artificial supply, and the company now controls an extensive business in the buying and shipping of poultry and eggs, with branch headquarters in the Nebraska towns of Norfolk, Fremont, Columbus, Wakefield, and Blair. In connection with the Beatrice plant of the company an average of eighty-five employes is retained, and at times the roster of employes includes as many as one hundred and fifty persons. Mr. Fishbach deserves much credit for the success which he has achieved and also for having given a substantial and progressive industrial and commercial enterprise to Gage county and its judicial center. He takes loyal interest in all measures and enterprises tending to advance the civic and material progress and prosperity of his home city and county, is the owner of two of the well improved and valuable farms of Gage county, each comprising one hundred and sixty acres, and recently, in connection with the national movement for the conservation of food

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products, he has had the distinction of being called to the national capital for conference with the food administrator, Mr. Hoover, in connection with the poultry, egg, and cold-storage business, as one of the leading exponents of these lines of enterprise in Nebraska. His advice in this conference has been of definite general value in connection with conservation policies. In politics Mr. Fishbach gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and he and his wife are earnest members of the Christian church.

As a young man of twenty-five years Mr. Fishbach wedded Miss Mary Ellen Wolf, who was born at Leaf River, Ogle county, Illinois, and she passed to the life eternal in 1895, being survived by four children, concerning whom the following brief data are entered: Ralph is the manager of the Beatrice Cold Storage Company's plant at Norfolk, Madison county, Nebraska; Eulalie, a young woman of much business ability, as well as social popularity, is treasurer of the company of which her father is president; Oscar is identified with ranching enterprise in the Canadian northwest; and Ethel is the wife of William Myers, who is associated with the Beatrice Cold Storage Company as an employe at the headquarters in Beatrice.

On the 6th of March, 1898, Mr. Fishbach contracted a second marriage, in his union with Miss Laura Peck, who was born in the state of Kansas, and their attractive home is brightened by the presence of their three children — Agnes, Bertha, and Priscilla.

HEINRICH REIMER. — Though Mr. Reimer claims the great empire of Germany as the place of his nativity he was not yet two years of age at the time of his parents' immigration to America and his entire experience has been gained in association with conditions and influences of the middle western states of the Union. He was yet an infant at the time when the family home was established in Gage county, in the pioneer days, and here he has made the best possible use of the advantages and opportunities afforded him, as is evident when it is stated that he is now numbered among the representative exponents of agricultural and live-stock industry in Blakely township, his well improved farm, of one hundred and fifty-five acres, being situated in Section 21, that township, and on rural mail route No. 1 from the city of Beatrice, which is about eight miles distant from his home.

Mr. Reimer was born in Prussia, Germany, December 13, 1874, and is a son of Bernhard and Helen (Goosen) Reimer, who became the parents of six sons and seven daughters, the father having had also two children by his first marriage. In 1876 Bernhard Reimer came with his family to the United States and engaged in farming in Iowa, but before the close of that year he came to Gage county and established the family home on a pioneer farm three miles west of Beatrice. He developed and improved this property into one of the productive farms of the county and there he continued to reside until his death, in 1896, at the age of sixty-four years, his devoted wife having passed away in 1885, at the age of forty-two years. Both were zealous members of the Mennonite church and assisted in the organization of the church of this denomination in their home district in Gage county.

Heinrich Reimer was reared under the influence of the pioneer farm and early began to lend his aid in its work, the while he profited duly by the advantages afforded in the local schools. In 1900 he rented a portion of the land belonging to his father's estate, and a few years later he purchased his present farm, upon which he has made good improvements, including the erection of a modern barn that is thirty-six by sixty-four feet in dimensions. Thrift and enterprise have given him place among the most progressive and successful agriculturists and stock-raisers of Blakely township and he is one of the stockholders of the farmers' grain elevator in the village of Hoag. He is a Republican in politics, and he and his wife are earnest members of the Mennonite church.

April 27, 1900, Mr. Reimer married Miss Agatha Penner, who was born and reared in Gage county and who is a daughter of Rev.

Gerhard Penner and Anna (Froese) Penner, her parents having been members of a sterling Mennonite colony that came from western Prussia and settled in Gage county in 1874. Mr. Penner is now pastor of the Mennonite church at Beatrice and is one of the revered pioneer citizens of Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Reimer have one child, Gerhard, who was born October 27, 1902.

LOUIS GRAFF. — Successfully established in business in the city of Beatrice, Mr. Graff is a scion of one of the most honored and influential territorial pioneer families of Gage county and takes just pride in claiming the county as the place of his nativity. He was born on the old homestead farm of his father, Joseph Graff, in Blakely township, three miles west of Beatrice, and the date of his nativity was March 3, 1862, due record concerning the family history being given on other pages of this volume. Mr. Graff is a son of Joseph and Teresa (Meyers) Graff, and in his boyhood days he gained a full quota of experience in connection with the conditions and influences of the pioneer era in the history of this now opulent section of Nebraska. He herded cattle on the wide-stretching prairie, had experience in the fighting of prairie fires, and made his share of youthful inroads on the wild strawberries. plums, and gooseberries that were then plentiful in this locality. He assisted in the work of the home farm and in the meanwhile made good use of the advantages of the schools established in Blakely township by the ambitious and progressive pioneers. He remained at the parental home until he had attained to the age of twenty-six years, and he then entered the employ of his older brothers, who were engaged in the agricultural-implement business at Wymore, this county. In 1889 he purchased an interest in a well established lumber yard in the city of Beatrice, and later he became sole owner of the business, which he has since successfully continued in the original location, at 413 West Court street, where he also controls a substantial trade in the handling of coal, paints, builders' hardware, etc. He has secure vantage-place as one of the most substantial and progressive business men of the capital and metropolis of his native county and is equally well entrenched in popular confidence and esteem, as attested by the success that has attended his business activities. He is financially interested also in important cement manufacturing plants in Dallas, Texas; near Kansas City, Missouri, and at Mason City, Iowa; and he handles the products of the same in connection with his extensive business at Beatrice. Mr. Graff is the owner of fifty acres of valuable land on the Rio Grande river, in Hildridge county, Texas, and twenty acres near Lake View, Oregon. He is liberal and public-spirited in his civic attitude, is a Republican in politics, is affiliated with the Beatrice organizations of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, and the Woodmen of the World, and he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church in their home city.

February 8, 1888, recorded the marriage of Mr. Graff to Miss Elizabeth Buckley, who was born in Canada and who was a daughter of John and Mary Buckley. Her father was born in Ireland and was a young man when he came to America and established his home in Canada, where he married and where he remained until after the death of his wife. Finally he came with his six children to Gage county, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming and where he passed the remainder of his life, his remains being interred in the Catholic cemetery, at Beatrice. Mrs. Graff passed to the life eternal on the 8th of March, 1908, and is survived by three children: Irene T. is the wife of Leo Werner, who is associated with Mr. Graff in the conducting of the lumber business at Beatrice; Joseph J. is a member of the United States aviation corps that is preparing for service in the great European war, and at the time of this writing, in the winter of 1917-1918, he is stationed at San Antonio, Texas; and Carl H., in January, 1918, passed the examination in the training camp for officers in the United States aviation service in the European war. In 1910 Mr.

Graff wedded Miss Mary Buckley, a sister of his first wife, and she is the gracious chatelaine of their pleasant and hospitable home. No children have been born of this union.

JESSE L. SCHLOSSER. — At this point it is possible to accord merited recognition to another of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Gage county, Mr. Schlosser having been a resident of Nebraska for the past forty years and now maintaining his home in the city of Beatrice.

Jesse L. Schlosser was born in Greene county, Ohio, on the 13th of October, 1842, and in the old Buckeye state he was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, the while he made good use of the advantages offered by the common schools of the locality. He was still a youth at the time of the family removal to Michigan, where he continued his active association with agricultural industry, and in that state was solemnized his marriage to Miss Polly Schock, who was born at Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio. In 1877 Mr. Schlosser came with his family to Nebraska, and, prior to the construction of a railroad, they made the overland trip with team and wagon from Falls City to Gage county. Mrs. Schlosser had received as a heritage from the estate of her father a tract of eighty acres of land in Blue Springs township, this county, and on this embryonic farm Mr. Schlosser erected as a domicile for his family a pioneer shanty, twelve by fourteen feet in lateral dimensions and provided with a "lean-to" about ten feet square. With the passing years he developed his farm and made good improvements on the same, and there he continued his active alliance with agricultural industry for twenty-two years. In the early days he hauled his wheat to Marysville, Marshall county, Kansas, two days being required to compass this overland trip, and he sold wheat at times for a price as low as thirty-five cents a bushel — a statement that is specially significant in comparison with prices demanded at the present time, when the government is putting forth every effort for food conservation, incidental to the nation's entrance into the great European war. It may further be noted that the first hogs which Mr. Schlosser raised on his farm were sold at the rate of three and one-half dollars a hundredweight.

Mr. Schlosser remained on his farm, to the area of which he had added by degrees, until about the year 1898, when he sold the property and removed with his family to Beatrice, the county seat. For three or more years thereafter he was employed in connection with the grain business conducted by William N. Spellman, and later he was similarly associated with Henry H. Norcross, whose business finally was developed into that now controlled by the Dobbs Grain Company, with which Mr. Schlosser is connected. He is a recognized authority in the grain trade, as his experience has been long and varied, and though he is now venerable in years he preserves marked vigor of mind and physical powers, so that the thought of retiring from active association with business is repugnant to him.

Mr. Schlosser is a stalwart in the camp of the Republican party and while residing on his farm he served for a number of years in the office of treasurer of Blue Springs township. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church. They became the parents of one child, Carrie M., who is the wife of Dr. Clemens A. Spellman, a leading dentist of Beatrice and individually mentioned on other pages of this work.

ALBERT T. MILBURN. — He whose name initiates this paragraph is the senior partner of the Milburn & Scott Company, printers and bookbinders, and the well established business with which he is thus connected is one of the important enterprises of Beatrice. This company has an establishment of most modern facilities for the handling of all kinds of job printing and book binding, a specialty being made of the manufacturing of high-grade blank books and the handling of a general line of supplies for county offices, banks, etc., while the concern keeps in stock also a full assortment of office stationery and supplies, so that the enterprise has been ex-

tended far outside the boundaries of Gage county. Mr. Milburn has been a resident of Gage county since he was about twelve years of age and in his independent career has here found ample opportunity for the achieving of substantial success and established place as one of the representative business men of the metropolis and judicial center of the county.

Mr. Milburn was born on a farm near Chebanse, Iroquois county, Illinois, on the 22d of March, 1874, and is a son of Thomas H. and Sarah E. (Fanning) Milburn, who were born in the province of Ontario, Canada, and whose marriage was solemnized in the state of Illinois. The paternal grandfather, John Milburn, was born and reared in England, whence he finally immigrated to America and established his residence in the Dominion of Canada. Later he removed with his family to the state of Illinois, where he passed the remainder of his life, his vocation having been that of farming during the greater part of his active career. George Fanning, the maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, came to America from Ireland and after having lived for a term of years in Canada he removed to Illinois, where he became a prosperous farmer and where he died at the venerable age of eighty-four years.

Thomas H. Milburn established his residence in Illinois prior to the Civil war and he was one of the early employes of the celebrated McCormick Harvester Company. Later he engaged in farming near Chebanse, that state, and through this medium he laid the foundation for his substantial success. In 1886 Mr. Milburn came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence at Beatrice. He purchased farm land in the county, having owned two or three different farms, and he gave his personal supervision to his farm properties in a general way, though he continued to reside in Beatrice until his death, in 1901, at the age of sixty-two years. His political support was given to the Republican party and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his venerable widow likewise is a devoted member, she still maintaining her home at Beatrice and the year 1918 recording the seventy-eighth anniversary of her birth. Of their three children the subject of this sketch is the younger of the two surviving, and George H. is actively identified with mercantile enterprise at Beatrice.

To the public schools of Illinois Albert T. Milburn is indebted for his preliminary educational discipline and after the family removal to Beatrice he here continued his studies until he had profited by the advantages of the high school. At the age of seventeen years he initiated his apprenticeship to the trade of book-binding, and also that of printer. He became skilled in all technical details of these lines of business and finally engaged independently in business by associating himself with others in founding the enterprise with which he is now connected and to the upbuilding of which he has given his best energies, his associates in Milburn & Scott Company being John C. Scott and Albert H. Buckman.

While unremitting in his application to business, Mr. Milburn has simultaneously stood exponent of loyal and progressive citizenship and has taken deep interest in the social and material advancement of his home city. His political views are indicated by the unwavering support which he gives to the cause of the Republican party, and as a representative of the same he was elected a member of the city council when he was but twenty-eight years of age. He held this office four years, during which he was the youngest member of the municipal body, and he did all in his power to further wise and economical administration of the city government and to promote needed public improvements. He is one of the appreciative and popular members of the local lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and his wife is an active member of the Presbyterian church.

In June, 1909, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Milburn to Miss Martha McClellan, who was born and reared at Holmesville, this county, and whose father, the late Robert H. McClellan, was one of the early pioneer set-

tlers of Gage county, where he reclaimed and improved a valuable farm and where he served for a long period in the office of justice of the peace. Mr. and Mrs. Milburn have three children — Robert, William, and Martha Virginia.

JOHN T. YULE. — In the spring of 1879 John T. Yule became associated with his honored father in the preparation of the first set of abstracts of real-estate titles for Gage county, and these initial records, as supplemented by the careful additions made in the intervening years, continue to be recognized as the ultimate abstract authorities in this county, the while John T. Yule continues actively to conduct the important abstract business in which he was the coadjutor of his father until the latter's death, on the 2d of June, 1907. He is not only one of the best known and most essentially representative citizens of Gage county but takes deep pride in the position of influence gained by his father, who was long numbered among the foremost and most honored citizens of this county, a special tribute to his memory being entered on other pages of this work, so that in the present connection is not demanded further review of the family history.

John T. Yule was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, on the 3d of June, 1856, and is one of the two surviving children of Thomas and Mary (Todd) Yule. In his native county John T. Yule was reared to adult age and after having there availed himself of the advantages of the high school at Portage, the county seat, he followed the course of his ambition by entering the law department of the University of Wisconsin, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1877, his admission to the bar of his native state having been virtually coincident with his reception of the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He served a brief professional novitiate by engaging in the practice of law at Portage, but within a year after his graduation he accompanied his parents on their removal to Beatrice, Nebraska, where the family home was established in May, 1879. Here Mr. Yule did not find it expedient to engage in the work of his profession, but he became closely associated with his father in the extending of financial loans on real-estate security and also in the important work of compiling from the county records the first complete set of books containing concise and authoritative abstracts of title to all realty in the county. Later they expanded their abstract business into other counties in this section of the state, as well as into adjoining sections of Kansas, and the business became one of extensive and important order, its cumulative ramifications having continued to the present time and the subject of this sketch having continued in full control of the enterprise since the death of his father. He maintains his well appointed offices in the Drake building, and so admirably has all work been systematized that the most absolute efficiency of service is given by this pioneer abstract institution, the records being kept constantly up to date, by the proper entrance of data concerning every real-estate transaction in the county. In connection with his long and active association with this line of enterprise Mr. Yule has found his knowledge of the law of inestimable value, though he has not engaged actively in the practice of the profession for which he so carefully prepared himself. By virtue of his intellectual and business ability he is well fortified for leadership in popular sentiment and action and he has been active and influential in the local councils of the Republican party, though never manifesting any ambition for political preferment in an official sense. His civic loyalty has been of insistent and helpful order and he has given effective service both as city clerk and city treasurer of Beatrice. Through his business activities he has contributed his quota to the civic and industrial progress of his home city and county and he commands the unqualified esteem of all who know him. He and his family are active members of the Presbyterian church.

On the 24th of October, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Yule to Miss Emma Shattuck, who was born at Moundsville, Marshall county, West Virginia, and who was

a girl at the time of the family removal to Wisconsin, where she was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Yule became the parents of eleven children, and concerning the nine now living the following brief record is given in conclusion of this review: Alice is the wife of James R. Robinson, who is engaged in the automobile business at Ennis, Texas; Lucille is the wife of C. R. Taylor, of Beatrice; Laura is the wife of Dale Chapman, of this city; Thomas K. is successfully and extensively engaged in the sheep-growing business in Colorado, with residence at Fort Collins, and it may be noted that in the season of 1917 he fed on his ranch twenty-one thousand head of sheep and lambs; Mary is employed as cashier in a leading meat market in Beatrice; Miriam and Mildred hold responsible positions in business offices in their home city; Hattie holds a clerkship in a local mercantile establishment; and Arlene is the youngest of the number, she being at the parental home, as are also the other unmarried daughters, the family being one of marked popularity in the representative social activities of Beatrice.

JOHN B. FULTON, M. D. — To no man should be accorded a higher degree of honor than to the skilled and loyal physician and surgeon who has given years of earnest and effective service in the alleviation of human suffering and distress, and to Dr. Fulton is uniformly accorded this honor in Gage county, where he has lived and labored unselfishly and devotedly in the work of his humane profession and where, as a pioneer physician and surgeon, he lived up to the full tension of exacting service demanded of him in the early days, when he traversed the country over a radius of many miles, in summer's heat and winter's rigorous blasts, often finding his way on horseback over almost impassable roads and even across the prairie where no roads were defined — and all this in his zeal to aid those who made call for his ministrations. Though he has now passed the eightieth mile-stone on the journey of life, he retains splendid mental and physical vigor, keeps in touch with the advances in his profession and responds frequently to the calls made for his ministrations on the part of families to which he has given such service during the course of many years. A man of strength and honor, he has been the friend and benefactor of humanity, and it may well be understood that he is held in reverent affection in the county that has so long represented his home and been the stage of his able and sympathetic services. Thus historic consistency is conserved in according to him a tribute in this publication, and even this brief record must bear its measure of lesson and inspiration.

Dr. John Blythe Fulton was born in Highland county, Ohio, on the 9th of June, 1833, and is a son of William and Catherine (Baskin) Fulton, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ireland. The paternal grandparents of Dr. Fulton were born in Ireland and were numbered among the sterling pioneers of Pennsylvania. William Fulton, father of the Doctor, was reared and educated in the old Keystone state and thence went to Ohio, where he became a pioneer farmer in Highland county, both he and his wife there continuing their residence until they were summoned from the stage of their mortal endeavors — secure in the respect and esteem of all who knew them.

Under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the home farm Dr. Fulton waxed strong of brain and brawn during the period of his childhood and youth, and his alert and receptive mind caused him to profit fully by the advantages afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. He supplemented this training by a course of higher study in Hillsboro Academy, a well ordered institution in his native county, and in preparation for the work of his profession he went to the state of Pennsylvania, where he prosecuted his technical studies under effective preceptorship and earnestly fortified himself for his exacting and responsible vocation. He began his professional novitiate in Pennsylvania, later removing to Fairbury, Livingston county, Illinois, and there he continued in active and successful general practice for the

long period of twenty-one years. Gracious were the environment and associations which he there forsook to number himself among the pioneer representative of his profession in Nebraska, to which state he came in 1879, somewhat more than a decade after its admission to the Union. He established his home at Beatrice, the judicial center of Gage county, the now beautiful little city having then been a straggling frontier village, and in those days he was one of only three physicians in the county, the other two who were his contemporaries in this pioneer prestige having been Dr. Webb and Dr. Huff, both of whom have passed to the life eternal.

Dr. Fulton was earnest and indefatigable in his professional ministration during the pioneer epoch and in the latter years of opulent prosperity and progress, and in the early days he made a remarkably successful record in the treatment of the all prevalent fever from which the settlers suffered. The Doctor is an optimist by very nature and his altruism has always been on a parity with his abiding human sympathy, so that it may well be understood that his ministrations have been beneficent in the bringing of cheer as well as in relieving physical ailments. Aside from slight lameness, due to the improper adjustment of a broken hip when he was a youth, Dr. Fulton is still active and vigorous, the years resting lightly upon him and his lines being cast in pleasant places, as he lives and moves among a people who accord to him affectionate regard and hold him always as *persona grata*.

Dr. Fulton has been a leader in popular sentiment and action in Gage county during the many years of his residence within its borders and has been found aligned as a stalwart advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party has ever stood sponsor in a basic way. He has for many years maintained affiliation with the Masonic fraternity, and while he was reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which his father was an elder for forty years, his personal study and research have in later years led him to endorse many of the tenets of the spiritualistic faith.

In 1882 Dr. Fulton purchased two bloodhounds and for thirty-six years he has maintained the "Beatrice Bloodhound Kennels," widely known for their effectiveness in breeding, raising, and training bloodhounds for use in tracing and locating criminals. The dogs are trained and managed by the Doctor's son, Richard, familiarly known as "Dick," who has a wide reputation as a detective. In the kennels are, in the spring of 1918, twenty or more animals, and at various times the number of hounds in these celebrated kennels has been as high as forty. A market for these animals is found all over the United States and in foreign countries, and high prices are paid for the animals.

As a young man of about twenty-nine years Dr. Fulton wedded Miss Sarah Phipps, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Judge David Phipps, and she passed to the life eternal in the year 1903. Of this union were born nine children, of whom eight are living, and concerning them the following brief data are available; Mary Maggie is the wife of W. W. Johnston, of Omaha, Nebraska; Oliver P. is engaged in the real-estate business in Beatrice; Belle is the widow of A. D. Butt, of Los Angeles, California; Thos. B. is associated with the Beatrice *Sun* and has been engaged in the newspaper business for thirty years; William S. is a successful sign painter in Beatrice; Hattie is the wife of J. H. Simon, of Boston, Massachusetts; Richard maintains his residence in Beatrice; Jesse E. died at the age of about thirty-five years; and Fitch B. is a talented artist, now a resident of the state of California.

In contracting a second marriage, Dr. Fulton wedded Miss Emily May, a daughter of one of the early clergymen of the Methodist church in Nebraska. No children have been born of this marriage.

FRANK E. LEFFERDINK. — Banking enterprise in Gage county numbers among its successful and popular exponents of the younger generation Frank E. Lefferdink, who

is giving effective service in the position of cashier of the Farmers & Merchants' Bank of Wymore.

Mr. Lefferdink was born in Lancaster county, Nebraska, on the 16th of September, 1885, and his parents now maintain their residence at Hickman, that county, where his father is living virtually retired. William Lefferdink was born near the city of Amsterdam, Holland, in the year 1847, and was reared and educated in his native land. In 1868, about the time of attaining to his legal majority, he came to the United States. He passed the ensuing year in Wisconsin and then, in 1869, came to Nebraska, a state that had been admitted to the Union only two years previously. In Lancaster county he obtained a homestead claim of eighty acres, and he was so deeply impressed with the advantages and attractions of the new commonwealth that he soon returned to his native land and induced eighty of his fellow countrymen to come likewise to America and acquire for themselves government land in Nebraska. Later he made a second trip to Holland, and on his return he was accompanied by one hundred and thirty-two earnest and industrious Hollanders, who became colonists in the vicinity of Hickman, Nebraska. He was thus primarily instrumental in gaining to Lancaster county a goodly contingent of most valuable citizens, as the Hollanders are known for their frugality, industry, and effective methods of intensive farming — not an inch of ground being by them permitted to go to waste in the matter of productiveness. William Lefferdink merits from Nebraska enduring gratitude for his efforts in bringing to the state in the early period of its history a valuable element that has been conspicuous in the development and advancing of the agricultural interests of this now opulent commonwealth. Mr. Lefferdink was a carpenter by trade, and as an able contractor and builder he assisted in the erection of many buildings in the city of Lincoln in the early days when the fine capital city contained not more than twelve or thirteen buildings. With the passing years he added to his landed estate and gained substantial prosperity, so that, as the shadows of his earnest and useful life begin to lengthen from the golden west, he is enjoying well earned peace and comfort in the attractive home which he has provided in the village of Hickman.

While residing in Wisconsin William Lefferdink wedded Miss Anna Port, who was born in that state, in 1850, her parents having been pioneers of Wisconsin, where they continued to reside until their death and where the father was a farmer by vocation. William and Anna (Port) Lefferdink became the parents of seven children, concerning whom brief mention may be consistently made at this point: Dena is the wife of William Smith, a prosperous farmer in western Nebraska; Nellie is the wife of Richard Schutte, who has charge of one of her father's farms near Hickman, Lancaster county; Henry is a retired banker and resides in the city of Lincoln; Emma is the wife of Alfred Christopher, a farmer near Ashton, South Dakota; Frank E., of this review, was the next in order of birth; William is cashier of the State Bank of Hadar, Pierce county, Nebraska; and Cornelius is cashier of the State Bank of Calumet, Iowa.

Frank E. Lefferdink acquired his early education in the public schools of his native county, and this discipline included a course in the high school in the city of Lincoln. He was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1904, and thereafter he completed a course in a business college in the capital city, with special attention given to the theory and practical work of banking. In his initial experience in connection with the banking business he was employed two and one-half years at Platte, South Dakota, and thereafter he held for a short period the office of president of the State Bank of Denton, Lancaster county, Nebraska. Prior to coming to Wymore, Gage county, he had been employed two years in the Farmers' Savings Bank of Gaza, Iowa, a position from which he retired to assume that of cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank of Wymore. Of this office he has been the incumbent since November 20,

1916, and within his tenure of this executive position the deposits of the bank have increased from one hundred and thirty thousand to two hundred and thirty-six thousand dollars — a definite testimonial to his ability and effective executive policies.

In politics Mr. Lefferdink gives his allegiance to the Republican party, he was reared in the faith of the Dutch Reformed church, and his wife holds membership in the Lutheran church. After establishing his residence in Wymore he here erected the attractive modern house which is the family home and which is one of the beautiful and hospitable domiciles of the thriving little city. While he gives close attention to the banking business, Mr. Lefferdink has made judicious investment in valuable land in Lancaster county, this property having been purchased by him from his father.

In June, 1916, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Lefferdink to Miss Maude Martin, who was born at Hickman, Lancaster county, her parents having been pioneer settlers in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Lefferdink have a winsome little daughter, Dorothy.

JOHN L. HERSHEY is the efficient and popular incumbent of the position of official engineer for Gage county and also the city of Beatrice, and in his chosen profession he has won a station of substantial success

Mr. Hershey was born in Monmouth, Illinois, on the 19th of September, 1881, and is a son of Samuel and Barbara Ella (Swiler) Hershey, both natives of the state of Pennsylvania, where the former was born December 6, 1843, and the latter on the 22d of September, 1850, she being a daughter of David Swiler, who removed with his family to Kansas in an early day. Samuel Hershey was reared and educated in the old Keystone state and he was a young man when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois. He is a son of Jacob Hershey, who was a farmer and miller in Pennsylvania and who became a successful exponent of agricultural enterprise after his removal to Illinois, where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives.

Samuel Hershey learned in his youth the trade of carpenter and he became a successful contractor and builder in Illinois. In 1884 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence in Beatrice, where he continued his activities as a contractor and builder and had the supervision of the erection of a number of important public and business buildings, including the Gage county court house, the Beatrice postoffice and many of the attractive business blocks of the city of Beatrice. He and his wife still maintain their home in the county's metropolis and he is now in the employ of the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company. Mr. and Mrs. Hershey became the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Frances R. is the widow of Charles F. Rogers and is now a popular teacher in the public schools of Beatrice; Charles W. is in the employ of the Pacific Electric Company, in the city of Los Angeles, California; Archibald C. is engaged in the real-estate business in Los Angeles; and John L., of this review, is the youngest of the number. The children received excellent educational advantages, all attending the University of Nebraska except Charles W., who finished his education at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Samuel Hershey is a Republican in politics, is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

John L. Hershey, the immediate subject of this review, was about three years of age when the family home was established in Beatrice. Here he attended the public schools until he had completed the curriculum of the high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1900. In 1906 he graduated from the Engineering College of the University of Nebraska, and for two years thereafter he was employed in the construction of reinforced concrete buildings in the state, for a Lincoln firm. The next five years found him in charge of important irrigation work in Colorado and Idaho, and this experience added greatly to his practical skill in his profession. In 1913 Mr. Hershey returned

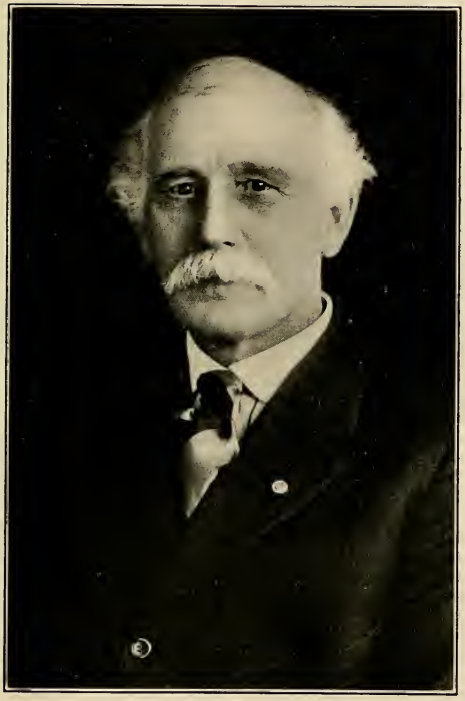
to Beatrice and, as an able and experienced civil engineer, was given appointment to his present responsible position as special engineer for the city and as county engineer, in which connection he had done a large amount of important work, especially for the city of Beatrice.

In politics Mr. Hershey is a Republican, and he takes loyal interest in all things pertaining to the welfare and progress of his home city and county. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In March, 1907, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hershey to Miss Mae E. Brubaker, a daughter of the late I. H. Brubaker, who was a successful farmer and grain dealer in Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Hershey have a winsome little daughter, Martha E.

PHILIP GRAFF. — The man who can today qualify as a progressive and successful exponent of the great basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing as carried forward under the admirable conditions and influences provided in the state of Nebraska, may well consider himself fortunate and have full confidence that his "lines are cast in pleasant places." Gage county is favored beyond measure in the personnel of its representative farmers and stock-raisers, and as one of the specially vigorous and resourceful exemplifiers of these all-important branches of productive enterprise Mr. Graff is eminently entitled to recognition in this history. He is the owner of one of the finely improved and distinctly model landed estates of Gage county, the same comprising six hundred and eighty acres, situated in Blakely township, with service on rural mail route No. 1, from the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Graff was born in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the 21st of May, 1857, and is a scion of one of those sterling German families that were destined to play so large and benignant a part in the development and progress of the Badger state. Mr. Graff is a son of Joseph and Theresa (Meyer) Graff, both of whom were born in Baden, Germany, where they were reared and educated, and who were married in Wisconsin. In 1854 Joseph Graff severed the ties that bound him to the German fatherland and came to America. For a few years after his marriage the family home was maintained in the city of Milwaukee, and eventually he removed to Iowa, where he worked on the river. Soon, however, he determined to cast in his lot with the Territory of Nebraska, which was then aspiring to statehood. On the 15th of April, 1860, he arrived with his family in Gage county, which at that time was little more than an unbroken prairie wilderness, Indians and all manner of wild game being still plentiful in this section of the territory. He purchased a tract of wild land in what is now Blakely township and the same constitutes an integral part of the present highly improved farm property of his son Philip, the immediate subject of this review. Joseph Graff began the breaking of his land and making it available for cultivation. This work was done with ox teams and afforded no sybaritic indulgence, as may well be imagined. Nebraska City, about sixty miles distant, was at that time the nearest trading point and many deprivations and hardships were necessarily borne by these early settlers who laid the foundation for future opulence and progress in this section of Nebraska. After Nebraska had gained the dignity of statehood he was still found vigorously employed in the improvement and cultivation of his farm, and with the passing years he made the same one of the best in the county. As prosperity attended his efforts, he erected good buildings and made other modern provisions on the homestead, and here he remained, respected by all who knew him, until his death, on the 10th of October, 1897, at the age of sixty-seven years, his devoted wife, who had been a true helpmeet, having passed to the life eternal on the 2d of June, 1894, at the age of fifty-six years. Both were devout communicants of the Catholic church and the first Catholic services to be noted in the history of the county were held in the modest log-cabin home of these



PHILIP GRAFF

honored pioneers, besides which they assisted materially in the organization of the first Catholic church in the county and in the erection of the first church edifice. They became the parents of nine children, concerning whom the following brief data are accessible: Henry died at the age of fifty-five years; Philip, of this review, was the next in order of birth; Gustav is now a resident of Pasadena, California; Caroline died in infancy; Louis is successfully established in the lumber business at Beatrice; George, John, Otto, and Frederick are deceased. Of the immediate family only two continue as residents of Gage county, as the above record indicates.

Philip Graff was three years of age at the time of the family removal to the frontier wilds of Nebraska Territory, and on the old homestead farm in Gage county he was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer era, so that his memory compasses the entire period in which have been wrought the marvelous progress and development in this now favored section of the state. As soon as possible the pioneers established primitive schools for their children, and in these early "institutions of learning" the subject of this sketch acquired his youthful education. From his boyhood to the present day he has continued to be closely and actively associated with the agricultural and live-stock enterprise in Gage county, and in 1898, shortly after the death of his father, he purchased the interests of the other heirs and assumed full ownership of the old home place.

When but seventeen years of age Mr. Graff initiated independent enterprise in the operation of a threshing machine, incidental to the garnering of the generous harvests in this section of the state, and he has continued his active alliance with this important industrial accessory during the long intervening years. From his youth he has done all of the threshing on the old homestead, as well as on many neighboring farms, and he has owned and operated several threshing outfits, in which connection he has kept his equipment up to the best standard, his present threshing outfit being of the most modern type. In addition to giving attention to well ordered agricultural exploitation Mr. Graff has been an extensive grower and feeder of cattle and has made this an important and successful feature of his farm enterprise. His progressiveness is further shown in his being a stockholder and vice-president and treasurer of a well ordered cement manufacturing company at Bonner Springs, Kansas; the New Monarch Mining Company, of Leadville, Colorado; and also of the company operating a modern smelter at Salida, Colorado. In a local way he has extended his business and capitalistic interests by becoming one of the principal stockholders of the German Savings & Loan Company, of Beatrice, of which important financial and fiduciary organization he is now the president, his well ordered executive policies having added much to the success of the business.

Mr. Graff has not been troubled with political ambition and though he has not consented to appear as a candidate for public office and is independent of strict partisan lines in politics, his influence and coöperation may always be counted upon in support of those things that conserve the best interests of the community, the state and the nation. He and his family are communicants of the Catholic church, as members of the parish of St. Joseph's church in the city of Beatrice, where he also maintains affiliation with the Knights of Columbus.

On the 24th of November, 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Graff to Miss Mary Meyer, who was born February 2, 1867, in Effingham county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of Joseph and Crecentia (Hiebler) Meyer, natives of Germany. The parents of Mrs. Graff came from Germany and settled in Illinois about the year 1853, and there they remained until 1870, when they came to Gage county, Nebraska, and settled on a farm in Blakely township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. In the concluding paragraph of this review is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Graff:

Josephine is the wife of George H. Sullivan, a successful carpenter and contractor at Beatrice; Edwin is actively associated with his

father in the work and management of the home farm; and the younger children of the ideal family home circle are Theresa, Linda, Hugo, and Harold.

JAMES E. BEDNAR. — It is gratifying to the publishers of this history to offer within its pages recognition of James E. Bednar, a native son of Gage county, who is honoring the county in his effective services as a member of the Nebraska bar. He is now successfully engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Omaha, as junior member of the firm of Ringer & Bednar, with offices in the First National Bank Building. Mr. Bednar is a son of the late Albert Bednar, an honored Gage county pioneer to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume.

James E. Bednar was born on the family homestead in Sicily township, Gage county, September 28, 1882. As a boy and youth Mr. Bednar contributed his due quota to the work on the home farm, and after having availed himself of the advantages of the district schools, he continued his studies in the high school at Wymore. He defrayed the expenses incidental to acquiring his higher academic training and his professional education largely through his own resources. He taught the Sunny Side district school in Lancaster county prior to entering the University of Nebraska, was graduated from the University of Nebraska, in 1907, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, but continued his service in the pedagogic profession for a short time as instructor in rhetoric and debating in the high school at Beatrice, Nebraska. In the meanwhile he was but working definitely along the course of his ambitious purpose, which was to prepare himself for the legal profession. Finally he was matriculated in the law department of his alma mater, the University of Nebraska, and from this department he was graduated in June, 1910, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws and with virtually coincident admission to the bar of his native state. Shortly afterward he formed a professional partnership with J. Dean Ringer, with whom he has since continued to be associated in the practice of law in the city of Omaha, under the firm title of Ringer & Bednar. He has proved resourceful and successful both as a trial lawyer and well fortified counselor and is now serving his second year as deputy county attorney of Douglas county.

In politics Mr. Bednar accords staunch allegiance to the Democratic party. In the time-honored Masonic fraternity he has completed the circle of the Scottish Rite to the thirty-second degree, besides being affiliated also with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church. On the 16th of June, 1910, the same day he received his long coveted "sheepskin" from the college of law, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bednar to Britania Daughters, who was born at Mooreshill, Indiana, but who at the time was a student in the graduate college of the University of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Bednar have two children — James E., Jr., born October 13, 1911, and Bryce Renwick, born August 3, 1916.

ELBERT J. DOLE, who is a leading photographer in Nebraska's capital city, is a native son of this state and is a representative of a family that has been specially prominent and honored in Gage county, as is shown by reference to the review of the life of his mother, Mrs. Sophia H. Dole, of Beatrice, the founder of the Dole Floral Company, of which also is given specific record in this volume.

Elbert J. Dole was reared and educated in Gage county and thus is fully entitled to personal recognition in this history. He was born in Seward county, Nebraska, December 3, 1877, and he was about nine years old when the family home was established in the city of Beatrice, judicial center of Gage county. Here he continued his studies in the public schools until he had completed a course in the high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1898. Soon afterward he took up the study of the photographic art, and in the same he has become a recognized expert and successful professional exponent of the photographic business. He has in the past

been employed in some of the best studios both in Beatrice and Lincoln, as well as by the State Journal Company, and his experience in his chosen profession has been wide and varied. Since 1912 he has conducted in the capital city of Nebraska his present handsomely appointed and thoroughly modern photographic studio, at 1125 O street, and his large and representative patronage denotes alike his professional skill and his personal popularity. Mr. Dole is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church.

In 1904 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Dole to Mrs. Sadie Crumpton, who was born in the state of Ohio and who was a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, at the time of their marriage. They have no children.

ELWOOD BIGLER. — Prominent among those whose successful activities are potent in upholding the commercial prestige of the city of Beatrice is Elwood Bigler, who here conducts a substantial and prosperous general hardware and implement business, the same having been established in 1896, under the firm title of Jacob Bigler & Son. He has conducted the enterprise in an individual way, under his own name, since 1907. His honored father, who was senior member of the original firm, was a resident of the city of Lincoln, this state, at the time of his death, in 1898.

Mr. Bigler was born in Hardin county, Ohio, on the 23d of November, 1865, and is a son of Jacob and Margaret (Runyan) Bigler, the former of whom was born in the fair little republic of Switzerland, in 1838, and the latter of whom was born in the state of Ohio, in 1842. Jacob Bigler was reared and educated in his native land and was a young man when he came to the United States. He found employment in connection with navigation activities on the Mississippi river, with headquarters in the city of New Orleans, and he was on the last packet boat that passed up the river prior to the outbreak of the Civil war. His loyalty to the Union was marked by decisive action, as he enlisted in a regiment of volunteers that was organized in the city of St. Louis, and was with his command in numerous engagements, including the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, in 1861 — an engagement in which the gallant General Lyons met his death. After the war Mr. Bigler turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and he was engaged in farming in Hardin county, Ohio, for some time prior to 1869, the year that was marked by his removal with his family to the new state of Nebraska. He settled on a pioneer farm near Crete, Saline county, in 1869, and there he continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower until the Centennial year, 1876, when he was elected sheriff of Saline county. At that period the office of sheriff was no sinecure in Nebraska, for the state had an undue quota of lawless and incorrigible men within its borders, but Mr. Bigler gave so effective an administration in his county that he was continued as the incumbent of the shrievalty for six consecutive years, the ensuing two years finding him giving equally effective administration in the office of county clerk. After his retirement from this position he engaged in the hardware business at Crete, that county, where he remained until 1887, when he removed to Imperial, the judicial center of Chase county, where he established himself in the hardware and lumber business. He developed a large and prosperous enterprise in these lines and continued his residence at Imperial until 1895, when he removed to Lincoln, the capital city of the state, where he thereafter lived virtually retired until his death, which occurred in 1898. He was one of the sterling pioneers who contributed a generous quota to civic and material progress and prosperity in Nebraska and he commanded the high regard of all who knew him. His venerable widow now resides in the home of her son Elwood, subject of this review, and in addition to receiving the utmost filial solicitude she is graciously compassed by many friends who pay to her tribute as one of the noble pioneer women of this now favored commonwealth. Three children survive the honored father and of the number the sub-

ject of this sketch is the youngest; William T. is a resident of Casper, Wyoming, and Mrs. Rosa B. Reed resides in Aurora, Illinois.

Elwood Bigler was a lad of about three years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. He was reared to adult age in Saline county, and was one of a few scholars in the first school established in that county. He profited by the advantages of the pioneer schools and early began to assist his father in the latter's varied business operations. In 1896 he became associated with his father in the establishing of a well ordered hardware business at Beatrice, and of the enterprise he assumed full charge, his father having been at the time a resident of Lincoln, as previously noted. He is now one of the leading exponents of the general hardware trade in Gage county, his well equipped store being situated at 400 Court street and each department of the same being well stocked at all times, so that the most efficient service is always given to the large and appreciative patronage.

Mr. Bigler takes loyal interest in all things touching the civic and material welfare and progress of his home city. He accords staunch allegiance to the Democratic party and does his part in the furtherance of its cause. In the time-honored Masonic fraternity he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, his maximum York Rite affiliation being with Mount Herman Commandery of Knights Templar, besides which he is a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. In his home city he is likewise a popular member of the lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

In 1909 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bigler to Miss Nellie B. Swartz, who was born in Brown county, Kansas, and who was a resident of Beatrice at the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Bigler have no children.

JAMES G. LAWRENCE. — In Gage county, Nebraska, not to know James G. Lawrence is virtually to argue oneself unknown, for this sterling pioneer citizen of Nebraska has served as assistant postmaster at Beatrice for fully thirty years, his incumbency having continued under the administrations of eight different postmasters, including John R. McCann, who is now in tenure of this office and who is individually mentioned on other pages of this publication. Mr. Lawrence came to Nebraska shortly after attaining to his legal majority, and that he gained his quota of pioneer experience is assured by the fact that he here established his residence in 1871, about four years after the territory had gained the dignity of statehood. He has done specially efficient service as an educator and was one of the efficient and popular representatives of the pedagogic profession in Nebraska in the early days, as well as in later years. Known and honored for his character and service, his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances and it is gratifying to be able to accord him recognition in this history.

A scion of sterling New England colonial stock, Mr. Lawrence was born in the city of Clinton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, on the 3d of February, 1850, and is a son of James S. and Caroline (Lowe) Lawrence, the former of whom was born at Harvard and the latter at Clinton, both in Worcester county, Massachusetts. James S. Lawrence learned in his youth the trade of comb-maker, and for many years he was employed as shipping clerk in the Foster & Lawrence wholesale furniture house in the city of Boston. He later engaged independently in comb manufacturing at Clinton, Massachusetts, and through this medium he achieved definite success and prestige, both he and his wife having continued their residence at Clinton until their death and both having been zealous members of the Congregational church, in which connection it may be noted that during the period of his residence in the city of Boston Mr. Lawrence maintained membership in the historic old Winthrop church of this denomination. The subject of this review was the third in order of birth in a family of six children, and concerning the others the following brief data are available: Oscar is in the service of the municipal government of Worcester, Massa-

chusetts; John is a prosperous farmer near Northboro, Worcester county, Massachusetts; Charles and Caroline are twins, the former being a resident of Northboro, Massachusetts, and the latter the widow of Harrison P. Fay, maintaining her home at Nanuet, New York, where her husband had been principal in the public schools; and the sixth child, a son, died in infancy. From the above record it will be discerned that of the immediate family James G. Lawrence is the only representative in the west, and his loyalty to Nebraska is on a parity with his appreciation of the historic old commonwealth of which he is a native son.

Mr. Lawrence is indebted to the public schools of his native city for his early educational discipline, and there he was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1868. Soon afterward he became a clerk in the postoffice at Clinton, and there he served as assistant postmaster for two years. In 1871, at the age of twenty-one years, he came to the new state of Nebraska and after visiting Beatrice, which was then a mere village, he made his way to Thayer county, where he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of virgin land. He remained on the place until he had perfected his title thereto and later he disposed of the property. Mr. Lawrence soon found opportunity for making effective use of his ability as a teacher, and for a number of years he taught in the public schools of Thayer and Gage counties. After his marriage Mr. Lawrence returned to the east and engaged in comb manufacturing at Clinton, Massachusetts, but after an experience of two years he was unable to resist the lure of the vital and progressive west and accordingly returned to Beatrice, where he gave his attention to teaching in the county schools until he was appointed assistant postmaster, in 1887, under the administration of President Cleveland. He has held this position during the long intervening years, his original appointment having been made under the regime of Samuel E. Rigg as postmaster, and it may well be understood that each successive incumbent has placed high and fully justified estimate upon the value of his services, for no man in Gage county has a wider acquaintance with its people and none has so comprehensive a grasp upon all details pertaining to the administration of the postoffice business in Beatrice, where his service has kept pace with the march of civic and material development and progress that has made Beatrice one of the vital and prosperous cities of the state. A man of broad mental ken, strong in his convictions and unequivocally loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, Mr. Lawrence is unfaltering in his allegiance to the Democratic party and has been prominent in its local councils in Gage county. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and attends and supports the Christian church, of which his wife was an active member.

On the 25th of December, 1878, Mr. Lawrence wedded Miss Laura E. Pheasant, whose father, the late Edward Pheasant, was one of the representative pioneers of Gage county, where he became the owner of a large tract of land and developed the same into a well improved and valuable property. In conclusion is entered brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence: Harold E. is assistant superintendent of the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, of Beatrice; Clifford J. remains at the parental home; James E. is city editor of the Lincoln *Daily Star*, in the capital city of Nebraska, and he has been very successful as a representative of newspaper work, even as he showed his ambition and resourcefulness by defraying almost entirely through his own efforts the expenses incidental to his course in the University of Nebraska, in which he was graduated: he married Miss Helen Graves, of Lincoln, and they have one child, Helen E.; Esther, the only daughter now living, was graduated in the Beatrice high school and since the death of her mother, which occurred November 23, 1917, she has taken the latter's place in the family home; Ruth, the youngest child, died at the age of eleven years.

JOSEPH HEBEL, who owns and resides upon a fine farm estate of two hundred and forty acres, in Section 6, Paddock township, is

a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of Nebraska, and in his independent career he has well maintained the honors of the family name, both in the matter of loyal citizenship and also through his productive activities in connection with agricultural industry.

Mr. Hebel was born in Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, and the date of his nativity was January 3, 1858. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Machova) Hebel, who likewise were born and reared in Bohemia, the former having been born in 1833 and the latter in 1840. In 1869 Joseph Hebel, Sr., immigrated with his family to America and in the same year he numbered himself among the pioneers of the new state of Nebraska. Prior to coming to the United States Mr. Hebel had served eleven years in one of the governmental military organizations of his native land. Upon coming to Nebraska he obtained a homestead claim in Saline county, and upon this wild prairie tract he built as a home for his family a primitive dug-out of the type common to the early pioneer days. This rudimentary building had a roof that was thatched with hay, and the only floor was the earth. On this pioneer farm Mr. Hebel continued his sturdy activities for ten years, at the expiration of which, in 1879, he came to Gage county and established a home on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres that is now in Section 7, Paddock township, the land having originally been a part of the Otoe Indian reservation, which had but shortly before been opened to settlement. Here Mr. Hebel continued his farm operations with vigor and success until he was called from the stage of his mortal endeavors, his death having occurred in 1889. His widow subsequently contracted a second marriage and she now resides at Wilber, Saline county, she being a devout communicant of the Catholic church, as was also Joseph Hebel, her first husband. Mr. and Mrs. Hebel became the parents of twelve children: Joseph is the immediate subject of this review; James was a resident of Rawlins county, Kansas, at the time of his death; Annie is the wife of Lewis Rathbun, of Glenwood township, Gage county; Charles likewise is a resident of this county; Mary is the wife of John Cacek, of Paddock township; Nettie is the wife of Joseph Synovec, of Paddock township; Robert is a resident of Fairbury, Jefferson county; Mary is the wife of Joseph Turhlicka, of Glenwood township, Gage county; and the other four children died when young.

He whose name introduces this review was a lad of ten years at the time of the family immigration to the United States and he was reared under the conditions and influences that marked the pioneer period of Nebraska history. As a boy and youth he herded cattle and worked on his father's farm in Saline county, and in the meanwhile he attended school when opportunity afforded. He was a sturdy youth of about twenty years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Gage county, and before he had attained to his legal majority he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Paddock township, this being the homestead place on which he has resided during the long intervening years. When he came into possession of this embryonic farm not a furrow had been turned on the land and no improvement had been made in any way, as the tract had but recently been placed on the market, as a part of the former Otoe Indian reservation. Within the forty years of his residence on this farm Mr. Hebel has made excellent improvements upon the place, as he has erected good farm buildings and given other distinct evidences of his progressiveness and good judgment. The passing years have brought to him a generous measure of prosperity, as attested by the fact that he has gradually added to his holdings until he now owns a valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres. This achievement and success represent the tangible results of his own well directed efforts and unflagging industry.

As his wife and helpmeet Mr. Hebel chose Miss Mary Fitte, who was born in Bohemia, March 8, 1862, and who was twelve years of age when she came with her parents to the United States. She was a daughter of Michael and Anna Fitte, who were numbered

among the early settlers of Saline county, Nebraska, and who now reside in the village of Swanton, that county. Mrs. Hebel was called to the life eternal on the 12th of September, 1908, and concerning the children the following brief record is consistently entered: Enma is the wife of Frank Vanosek, of Glenwood township; Minnie is the wife of Emil Novotny, of the same township; Kate is the wife of Frank Fleisleber, likewise of Glenwood township; Nellie is the wife of Philip Graff, of Sicily township; and Annie, Mattie, and Augusta remain at the paternal home.

Joseph Hebel is one of the highy respected pioneer citizens of his community, and he is always ready to give his influence and support to any cause tending to advance the best interests of the county in which he has maintained his home for more than forty years. In politics he maintains an independent attitude and votes for men and measures that meet the approval of his judgment. He has for eighteen years given efficient and valued service as treasurer of his school district, and has been influential in bringing the educational work of the district up to its present high standard.

Reverting to his many youthful experiences in connection with pioneer life in Nebraska, Mr. Hebel relates that on one occasion he accompanied his father on foot from the home in Saline county to Nebraska City. When night came they asked for lodging at a farm house, but no place could be found to accommodate them. They then attempted to sleep on a pile of straw in the barnyard, but they became so cold that they had to arise and travel on. They covered on foot the entire distance of eighty-five miles between their home and Nebraska City, and on their return trip they were more fortunate in obtaining a night's lodging, as they were given a place on the floor of a pioneer farm house and provided with a covering of sheep pelts. This is but one of many incidents which Mr. Hebel recalls concerning the conditions of the early days.

HENRY WILLIAMSON. — A resident of Gage county for nearly forty years, Mr. Williamson proved himself specially energetic and resourceful in his productive activities as an exponent of farm industry in this section of the state, and he developed one of the valuable farm properties of Glenwood township. He finally retired from the old homestead to establish his residence in the city of Beatrice, but a life of ease had no allurement for him and he has here proved again his success-proclivities by engaging in the coal business, in which line of enterprise he controls a large and representative trade — based alike on fair and honorable dealings and upon his unqualified personal popularity in the community. A share of pioneer honors attaches to his name and achievement and consistency is observed when he is here accorded recognition as one of the representative citizens of Gage county.

Mr. Williamson was born at Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, on the 6th of December, 1855, and is a son of John and Margaret (Uhl) Williamson, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of the state of Maryland, where their marriage was solemnized. In the early '50s John Williamson and his wife enrolled themselves as pioneers of Lee county, Illinois, to which section of the state they made their way from Chicago by means of team and wagon. In that county Mr. Williamson purchased, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, a tract of land that is now worth more than two hundred dollars on acre. He continued to give his close attention to the reclamation and development of his farm until the outbreak of the Civil war brought to him the call of higher duty. In response to President Lincoln's first call, he enlisted, early in 1861, as a private in Company A, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He proceeded with his command to the front, took part in the various engagements in which it was involved up to and including the battle of Missionary Ridge, in which engagement he was captured by the enemy. He was incarcerated as a prisoner of war in the famous Libby Prison of odious

memory, and there it was his to endure the horrors and privations that made the name of that Conferedate prison-pen infamous in the annals of history, besides which he made the supreme sacrifice in behalf of the cause for which he had enlisted, as he died while in Libby Prison, in November, 1863. His widow survived him by more than twenty years and was a resident of Carroll, Carroll county, Iowa, at the time of her death, on the 31st of January, 1887. They became the parents of six children, of whom four are living: George, a painter by trade and vocation, resides at Odell, Gage county, Nebraska; Lydia is the widow of E. L. Burkett, and maintains her home at Beaver Crossing, Seward county, this state; Henry, of this review, was the next in order of birth; and Anna is the wife of C. C. Collins, who is engaged in the lumber business at Oak Park, Illinois. The honored father espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and as a man and citizen he commanded the high regard of all who knew him. His father, George Williamson, likewise came from Ireland and became an early settler and prosperous farmer of Illinois, where he passed the remainder of his life. Peter Uhl, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, likewise became one of the pioneer farmers of Illinois, where he remained until the close of his life. Mrs. Margaret (Uhl) Williamson bravely and unselfishly devoted herself to the care and rearing of her children after the untimely death of her husband, and she exemplified the truest and noblest traits of gracious womanhood, her religious faith having been that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Henry Williamson was a lad of about eight years at the time of his father's death and soon afterward he became a member of the family circle of his uncle, Henry Uhl, a farmer near Dixon, Illinois. He remained with his uncle until he had attained to his legal majority and in the meanwhile profited by the advantages afforded in the schools of the locality. Soon after attaining to his legal majority Mr. Williamson went to the city of Keokuk, Iowa, where he completed a course in the Baylies Business College. For two years thereafter he was engaged in the grain and coal business at Carroll, Iowa, and in the spring of 1880, shortly before his marriage, he came to Gage county, Nebraska. He had first come to this county in 1872 and had purchased a tract of land in the southern part of the county — at the rate of three dollars an acre. At that time the railroad came only to Beatrice and from this point he had to go twenty-five miles on horseback to look over the land which he purchased.

On this embryonic farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 30, Glenwood township, Mr. Williamson instituted improvements and he had provided a comfortable house before bringing his bride to the new home. Mr. Williamson developed his original farm into one of the valuable properties of the county and became specially successful in his well ordered activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. While on the farm he was prominent in community affairs, served as justice of the peace and also as school director, and he continued his active association with farm industry until 1910, when he removed to the city of Beatrice. Here he lived retired for one year and he then engaged in the coal business, with which he has since continued his active and successful association. He handles also wood, tankage, and oil meal, and his business is of substantial order in all departments. Mr. Williamson is still the owner of a well improved landed estate in Gage county, his farm being in Midland township, near Beatrice, and comprising eighty acres. He is the owner also of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in southeastern Kansas, and of another tract, of four hundred and eighty acres, in Washington county, that state. He has been in the most significant sense the founder and builder of his prosperity, as he had neither financial reinforcement or influential friends to aid him when he set forth as a youth to gain for himself independence and advancement. As a representative of livestock industry in this section of Nebraska Mr. Williamson did much to improve the type of

cattle raised, and he exhibited on more than one occasion fine cattle at the international stock shows in the city of Chicago. In this connection it should be noted that the handsome silver cups which he was awarded on his exhibits of fine cattle are the only trophies of the sort held by a citizen of Nebraska. He specialized in the breeding and growing of fine Hereford cattle and of this stock he shipped a load to Chicago in December, 1907, where his exhibit gained not only a large silver cup but also a prize of three hundred dollars in cash. Later he received a silver cup on the exhibit which he made in the city of Denver, where further recognition was given in his being awarded a cash prize of seven hundred dollars. On his farms Mr. Williamson is now giving special attention to the raising of Hampshire swine, and he has more than four hundred head of these hogs yearly on his Gage county farm. Mr. Williamson is found staunchly aligned as a supporter of the cause of the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and both he and his wife are active members of the Christian church in their home city.

On the 1st of April, 1880, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Williamson to Miss Nellie A. Faxon, who was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, on the 21st of February, 1859, a daughter of John W. and Asenath (Olds) Faxon, who established their home in Gage county in 1880, and who here passed the residue of their lives, the father having become one of the substantial farmers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson have four children: George F. is now employed by a concern engaged in the handling of school supplies in the city of Lincoln, he having been graduated not only in the University of Nebraska, but also in historic old Columbia University, in New York city; John H. has the active management of his father's fine farm near Beatrice; Rhetta is the wife of R. O. Parks, of Beatrice; and Nellie remains at the parental home.

THOMAS E. HIBBERT. — As a sterling pioneer citizen, a veteran of the Civil war, and as a member of the Nebraska legislature, the late Hon. Thomas E. Hibbert left a deep and benignant impress upon the history of the state in which he established his residence prior to its admission as one of the sovereign commonwealths of the Union, and this history of Gage county exercises a consistent function when it accords a tribute to his memory.

Mr. Hibbert was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the year 1846, and he was one of the honored pioneer citizens of Gage county, Nebraska, at the time of his death, which here occurred on the 3d of March, 1905. The paternal grandparents of Mr. Hibbert were born and reared in England and upon coming to America they settled in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, the father of the subject of this memoir having been a lad of nine years at the time.

Thomas E. Hibbert was reared and educated in the old Keystone state, and was but fifteen years of age at the outbreak of the Civil war. His youthful patriotism was roused to responsive protest and action, for at the age noted he gallantly tendered his services in defense of the Union. He weighed at the time only one hundred and five pounds but his loyal enthusiasm was unbounded. He enlisted from Wayne county, at Salem, in Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Captain J. M. Buckingham and Colonel Bassert. His regiment was assigned to the Third Brigade of the Second Division of the Sixth Army Corps, General Hancock having command of the brigade, in Franklin's corps of Smith's division. Mr. Hibbert took part in the battle of Poolsville, Maryland, September 10, 1862, and engagements in which he thereafter participated may be here noted: South Mountain, September 14, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862, his his regiment having buried almost two thousand Confederate soldiers after the battle and on the field of Antietam. From his original brigade Mr. Hibbert was transferred to the

THOMAS E. HIBBERT

Third Brigade (Paul's), First Division (Wadsworth's), First Army Corps (Reynolds'), and with this command he took part in the battles of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, and Chancellorsville, April 28 to May 12, 1863, having incidentally participated in the historic "mud march" of General Burnside's command. His term of enlistment had been for ninety days, and after the expiration of the same he was mustered out, on the 6th of June, 1863. He at once re-enlisted, and was assigned to Battery C. Second Pennsylvania Veteran Artillery. Thereafter he served with the Twenty-second Army Corps in the defences around Washington until May, 1864, when he again went to the front, in the Eighteenth Army Corps. He took part in the battle of Cold Harbor, in June, 1864, and on the 12th of that month he embarked on a transport, at Whitehouse Landing and sailed down the York river to Chesapeake Bay, past old Fortress Monroe. He thence proceeded up the James river to City Point, Virginia, and on the 15th of June he was in the movement against Petersburg. His regiment made the first attack on that city and he took part in all of the engagements in which the Eighteenth Army Corps was thereafter involved, up to the time when the Twenty-fourth Army Corps was organized, when the Second Pennsylvania Veteran Artillery became a part thereof and was assigned to its Third Division. Under these conditions Mr. Hibbert continued in active service until the surrender of General Lee, after which he was engaged in provost guard duty until he was mustered out, on the 6th of February, 1866. Further details concerning the gallant military career of Mr. Hibbert have been given and the record is worthy of perpetuation in this connection, as follows: "Despite his youth, Mr. Hibbert carried the heavy musket of the Civil war days and performed in the camp and field the same service that was expected of his older comrades. At the battle of Chapin's Farm he was reported killed, but he wrote to his father to announce the fact that he was alive and well, he having been reported among the dead by reason of the fact that a shell from a gunboat had exploded so close to him that he was knocked senseless for a few moments. Within the course of his service Mr. Hibbert was tendered a commission in a regiment of colored troops. He had been color guard in his command and upon the return of the regiment to Pennsylvania he carried back its state flag, which, on July 4, 1866, he in person handed to Governor A. G. Curtis, the famous war governor of the Keystone state. This stand of colors went out in 1861 and came back in 1866. Within this long interval Confederate hands never touched these colors. In general orders Mr. Hibbert was mentioned for making the three best shots at a target with a twenty-four-pound howitzer, while serving in the defences of Washington, he having been the gunner and having sighted the piece. When the Confederates made an attack on Redoubt Carpenter, below Dutch Gap, January 25, 1865, his services were loaned to a battery of the Thirteenth New York Artillery, and he was complimented for the assistance rendered by his howitzer in repulsing the enemy."

In 1866, after the close of his war service, Mr. Hibbert came to the Territory of Nebraska and entered claim to a homestead in Gage county, this place being in Section 13, Hooker township, and having been by him reclaimed and improved into one of the valuable farm properties of the county. On this homestead he passed the remainder of his long and useful life, and here his death occurred March 3, 1905, his widow still remaining on the old homestead, which is endeared to her by many hallowed memories and associations.

In politics Mr. Hibbert was a stalwart Republican and he gave yeoman service in the advancement of the party cause. He was influential in public affairs in Gage county and represented the same several terms in the lower house of the Nebraska legislature. He retained vital interest in his old comrades and manifested the same through his active affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

On the 19th of March, 1874, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hibbert to Miss Nannie E. Fuller, of Adams, this county, her father having been an honored pioneer of Gage

county, where both he and his wife passed the closing period of their lives. Mr. Fuller was of English lineage and birth, and was a child when he accompanied his parents to the United States. The parents were residents of Wayne county, Pennsylvania, for many years and there their death occurred. In the concluding paragraph of this memoir is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Hibbert:

Guy is now a resident of Spearville, Kansas; Ila E. likewise lives at Spearville; Roscoe C. continues his residence in Gage county and lives in the village of Adams; Thomas E. resides at Crab Orchard, Johnson county, and Benjamin H. at Alliance, Box Butte county; Martha C. is the wife of Melvin Liggett, of Alliance, this state; James G. is perpetuating the patriotic spirit of his honored father, as he has become a member of the great national army that is being prepared for participation in the European war, he being, in the spring of 1918, a member of Company A, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Regiment, stationed at Camp Funston, Kansas; George D. remains with his widowed mother on the old home farm; Anna Josephine died April 6, 1877; Charles Edward passed away January 30, 1880; and Mary Pearl died February 17, 1880.

JACOB W. WIEBE. — This substantial farmer and honored citizen of Blakely township is a representative of the fine element of German citizenship that has exercised such beneficent influence in connection with the civic and industrial development of Gage county, and he is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 15 of the township mentioned.

Mr. Wiebe was born in Prussia, Germany, on the 29th of August, 1864, and is a son of Jacob and Emeline (Penner) Wiebe, his father having been a farmer by vocation and having been a comparatively young man at the time of his death. The subject of this sketch attended school in his native land until he was fourteen years of age, when he came with his widowed mother, his elder brother and his only sister to the United States, the family home being established in Gage county, where the two young sons found employment at farm work. The little family thus came to the county in 1878 and here the devoted mother remained until the summer of 1883, when she returned to her native land for a visit. Her health was impaired at the time and she did not live to rejoin her children, as her death occurred in 1884, while she was still in Prussia, she having been nearly fifty years of age at the time. Mrs. Wiebe was one of the pioneer representatives of the Mennonite faith in Gage county and was most earnest and zealous in church work.

After having been employed six years at farm work in this county Jacob W. Wiebe became associated with his brother, Henry J., of whom mention is made on other pages, in the renting of a farm, and his energy and ability brought to him success in these independent activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. In 1896 he purchased his present homestead farm, upon which he has made excellent improvements of a permanent order and which he has brought up to a high state of productiveness. He remodeled the house and has also brought other buildings on the farm into good order, and he planted a goodly number of trees on the place, many of the same being now of large size and adding materially to the attractions of the homestead. Mr. Wiebe has not neglected his civic responsibilities while furthering his individual prosperity, but has given his influence in support of legitimate measures and enterprises tending to advance the general welfare of the community. He is a stockholder in the grain elevator at Hoag and is a substantial citizen who commands unqualified popular esteem. He is an independent Republican in politics and he and his family are zealous adherents of the Mennonite church, in the affairs of which they are actively interested.

The marriage of Mr. Wiebe to Miss Agatha Penner was solemnized November 16, 1899. She was born in Prussia and is a daughter of Johannes and Magdalena (Penner) Penner, who established their home in Gage county in 1877. Mrs. Penner passed to the life eternal

in 1911, at the age of sixty-three years, and her venerable husband, who celebrated in 1917 his seventy-seventh birthday anniversary, now resides in the village of Hoag, this county. Of their five children who attained to maturity Mrs. Wiebe is the eldest. The pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Wiebe still claims as members of the family circle all of their children, namely: Harry, Edwin, John, Louis, and Richard, but one child, Anna, died when young.

JOHN RIECHERS. — Through enterprise and excellent management Mr. Riechers has gained distinctive success in connection with business affairs and is now established in the general merchandise business in the village of Clatonia, his ample and well appointed store receiving a representative supporting patronage and the stock in each department, including that devoted to furniture, being kept up to the standard of the trade requirements. Mr. Riechers has been a resident of Nebraska since boyhood and prior to entering the mercantile business he had been actively identified with agricultural industry in Gage county.

Mr. Riechers was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on the 30th of May, 1873, and is the only child of Herman and Margaret (Helms) Riechers, he having been an infant at the time of his mother's death.

Herman Riechers was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, September 29, 1844, and was one of the honored citizens of Gage county, Nebraska, for many years prior to his death, which here occurred in 1909. He was reared and educated in his native land and in 1865 he came to America in company with his brother Justus. Both established residence in Wisconsin, where their parents joined them two years later, to pass the remainder of their lives as sterling pioneer citizens of the Badger state. In Wisconsin Herman Riechers continued his productive activities as a farmer until 1883, when he came with his family to Nebraska and settled on a farm three miles west of Clatonia, Gage county. He purchased a half-section of land in Saline county and became one of the progressive and successful agriculturists and stock-growers of the county, besides which he added to his landed estate by purchasing three hundred and twenty acres just across the line in Gage county, in 1892. He was a man of strong and upright character and at all times commanded the high regard of his fellow men, his religious faith having been that of the Lutheran church. About the year 1875 Mr. Riechers contracted a second marriage, when Miss Sophia Hillman became his wife, she likewise being a native of Hanover, Germany, and having become a resident of Wisconsin about two years prior to her marriage. She now resides in the village of Clatonia, where she celebrated in 1917 the seventieth anniversary of her birth. Of this second marriage were born three sons and three daughters, all of whom survive the honored father: Diedrich owns and resides upon a part of his father's old homestead farm, three miles west of Clatonia; Herman is engaged in the hardware business at Clatonia; Grover is conducting a prosperous business as a dealer in agricultural implements, in the same village; Mrs. Emma Hunecke likewise resides in Clatonia; Mrs. Louisa Kock is a resident of Clay Center, Kansas; and Mrs. Nora Kracke and her husband maintain their home on an excellent farm five miles southwest of Clatonia.

John Riechers gained his rudimentary education in the district schools of his native county and was a lad of ten years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. Here he found ample demands upon his youthful attention in connection with the work of the home farm, the while he made good use of the advantages of the public schools of the locality. In 1896 he rented land from his father and began independent operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower, but in 1899 he removed to Clatonia, where for the ensuing ten years he was engaged in the farm implement business. In 1909 he sold his well established business to his brother Grover, after which he here conducted a prosperous furniture business until 1914, when he amplified the scope of the enterprise by installing a stock of general merchandise, the efficient service

given in his establishment combining with his personal popularity to make the business one of substantial and representative order. In politics he gives loyal support to the cause of the Democratic party and he served four or five terms as treasurer of Clatonia township. Both he and his wife are earnest communicants of the German Lutheran church in their home village.

December 26, 1895, recorded the marriage of Mr. Riechers to Miss Margaret Hereth, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, daughter of John and Anna Hereth, who established their home in Gage county in 1883, the father being now deceased and the widowed mother being a resident of the state of Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Riechers have four children — Rosa, Amelia, Herbert, and Anita.

WILLIAM A. MULLIGAN, B. D., the honored rector of Christ church, Protestant Episcopal, in the city of Beatrice, was born in Ontario, Canada, on the 10th of March, 1863, and is a son of William and Lucy (Montgomery) Mulligan, the former a native of the Province of Ontario, Canada, and the latter of Ireland. The parents of William Mulligan came to America from the north of Ireland and settled at Port Hope, Ontario, Canada the father becoming a prosperous farmer of that province and he and his wife having there passed the residue of their lives. William Mulligan long held precedence as one of the substantial exponents of agricultural industry in Victoria county, Ontario, and was a citizen of no little prominence and influence in his community. Both he and his wife were devout communicants of the Church of England. Of the five children the subject of this review is the eldest: John H. is a retired farmer residing in Ontario, Canada; Thomas lives on his father's old homestead farm, in Victoria county, Ontario; Alexander, a resident of Superior, Wisconsin, is in the government service, having been for fifteen years an attache of the customs service; Mary is the wife of William Carty, of Bobcaygeon, Canada.

Rev. William H. Mulligan acquired his early education in the public schools of his native province and his higher academic training through Trinity College, Toronto, and has a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Seabury Divinity School, of Minnesota. Father Mulligan was ordained to the priesthood at Detroit, Michigan, by Rt. Rev. Thos. F. Davies, D.D., bishop of the diocese of Michigan, and his first pastoral incumbency was that of assistant rector of St. James church at Sault de Ste. Marie, Michigan, where he remained six years. He then assumed the charge of Ascension church at Ontonagan, Michigan, and in the following year the entire town was virtually destroyed by fire, the Episcopal church edifice having been reduced to ashes in this conflagration. In the same year, 1896, Father Mulligan came to Beatrice, where he has since labored with all of consecrated zeal and devotion as rector of Christ church, the spiritual and temporal work of the parish having been vitalized and prospered under his earnest regime, and his status being that of one of the able and representative clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal church in the Nebraska diocese.

Father Mulligan has the vigor and civic loyalty that make him a leader in community thought and action and he is one of the honored and valued citizens of the Gage county metropolis. The church of which he is rector has a membership of two hundred and fifty and all departments of parish work are in excellent order. In connection with the affairs of the parish Father Mulligan issued a monthly church paper, the *Message*. He is a Republican in his political allegiance and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

In 1889 was solemnized the marriage of Father Mulligan to Miss Mary Williams, who likewise was born and reared in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and whose father, Thomas Williams, was a prosperous farmer in the state of Michigan at the time of his death. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Father and Mrs. Mulligan: Harold R. is an efficient and popular teacher in the high school in the city of Omaha, besides being athletic director of the

school, and incidentally he is pursuing a course of study in the medical department of the University of Nebraska; Stella is a teacher in the public schools of Beatrice; Allan W. is a member of the class of 1920 in the medical department of the University of Nebraska; Edna K. is attending the school for trained nurses that is connected with the Clarkson hospital in the city of Omaha; Frederick A. is a member of the class of 1918 in the Beatrice high school; and Ernest A. and Arthur M. are likewise students in the high school.

FREDERICK O. McGIRR is one of the youngest men that has thus far been called upon to serve as a commissioner of the supreme court of Nebraska, and his appointment to this high office not only gave significant recognition of his fine professional attainments but also reflected distinction upon Gage county, where he was reared to manhood and where he had gained secure vantage-ground as a representative member of the bar of this part of the state. Prior to his elevation to his present office, involving his removal to Lincoln, the capital city of Nebraska, he had been for more than twenty years engaged in the successful practice of his profession in the city of Beatrice, and on this score alone he is entitled to special recognition in this history, as is he likewise by reason of his being a scion of one of the sterling pioneer families of Gage county. Of the McGirr family a further record is given on other pages of this work, in the sketch dedicated to Dr. John I. McGirr, brother of him whose name initiates this paragraph.

Judge Frederick O. McGirr was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, on the 11th of December, 1870, and there received his earlier educational discipline in the public schools and was fifteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. Here he continued to attend the public schools until he had completed the curriculum of the high school, and in preparation for the work of his chosen profession he began reading law under the able preceptorship of Robert W. Sabin, a leading member of the bar of Gage county and its capital city. Through close application he made rapid progress in the absorption and assimilation of the science of jurisprudence, and he was admitted to the bar on the 20th of June, 1893. He served his professional novitiate in Beatrice and his character and ability soon enabled him to build up a substantial practice. In 1907 he formed a professional partnership with Menzo W. Terry, under the firm name of McGirr & Terry, and this alliance continued until December, 1912. In 1908 Judge McGirr was elected prosecuting attorney of Gage county, and of this office he continued the incumbent four years, retiring therefrom in January, 1913, after a forceful and able administration that inured greatly to the advancing of his professional prestige. He then resumed the practice of his profession, with a substantial and representative clientage, and continued as one of the leading members of the Gage county bar until June, 1915, when he was appointed a member of the supreme court commission of the state, for a term of two years. He assumed the duties of this office September 20, 1915, and at the expiration of his first term he was reappointed, for another term of two years, on the 20th of September, 1917. It is needless to say more than that on the bench he has fully justified the wisdom of his appointment and that he has shown the true judicial temperament, as well as a broad and accurate knowledge of law and precedent.

Judge McGirr is one of the honored members of the Nebraska State Bar Association, is a vigorous and effective advocate of the principles and policies of the Democratic party, for which he has done yeoman service in various campaigns, and he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, in each of which he has held various official chairs.

On the 20th of December, 1899, Judge McGirr wedded Miss Mary Moody, daughter of Samuel S. Moody, a pioneer merchant of Beatrice, where he was successfully established in business for many years. He had also conducted a mercantile business at Peru,

Nemaha county, and it was while the family home was there maintained that Mrs. McGirr was born, she being one of the gracious and popular native daughters of Nebraska. Judge and Mrs. McGirr have no children.

HOMER B. AUSTIN, who died at his home, in the city of Beatrice, on the 12th of April, 1906, was an honored pioneer of the Territory of Nebraska and of Gage county, his character and his work having been such that a tribute to his memory properly finds place in this publication. In offering such a memoir it is but fitting that liberal and slightly modified quotation be taken from an appreciative estimate that appeared in a Beatrice newspaper at the time of his demise.

Mr. Austin was born at Austinburg, Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1830, and there he was reared to manhood on his father's farm, in the meanwhile attending the common schools when opportunity afforded. In 1853 he wedded Miss Mary A. Dunbar, of Camden, Oneida county, New York, and in 1857 he joined the initial tide of immigration moving toward Nebraska Territory, his wife and infant son joining him in the following year. From the article that appeared in a local paper at the time of his death are made the following extracts: "He chose Gage county as his place of residence and selected a claim on Town creek, east of the present village of Pickrell and in the neighborhood of the Pethouds, the Joneses, the Wilsons, Judge Hiram W. Parker and other old friends from Ohio who were pioneers in the new territory. His claim joined the one occupied by Judge Parker, and a warm intimacy, cemented by trials, privations and dangers of pioneer life and destined to be broken only by death, sprang up between the two families. After spending a few years on his claim Mr. Austin returned with his family to Ohio, but in 1884 he returned to the west and established his residence in Washington county, Kansas, where he remained until 1895, when he returned to Gage county and established his home in Beatrice, where he passed the remainder of his life, the death of his devoted wife having here occurred in 1897, and the remains of both rest in the beautiful cemetery at Beatrice. He was survived by one son, Charles N., of whom mention is made on other pages, and by a cousin, L. E. Austin, who was a resident of Beatrice at the time of his death, in 1909, and who is survived by two sons — Lewis Benjamin, a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, and Edward, who is in the aviation service of the United States. Edward S. Austin, another cousin of Homer B., likewise became one of the very early settlers of Gage county, and he erected one of the first grist mills in the county. At a point eight miles north of Beatrice he laid out a little village, to which was given the name of Austin, and here he had charge of the pioneer postoffice which depended for mail service on the facilities afforded by the overland pony express. Edward S. Austin passed the remainder of his life in Gage county and here developed a valuable farm estate. The subject of this memoir assisted in the erection of the first saw mill in the little village of Beatrice.

"Though never taking an active part in public affairs Homer B. Austin was a public-spirited citizen, and up to the hour of his death was a useful and exemplary member of society. He was sober and industrious and in all of the relations of life was scrupulously honest. He was a man of strong feeling and deep emotion and although a good friend, when once his anger or resentment was aroused he was apt to be as implacable in his hatred as he was true and loyal in his friendships. By nature he was deeply religious. He believed, with a constancy and devotion that nothing could disturb, in the existence of a spiritual world, and that this is a higher and holier world than that which our poor senses apprehend. For many years this good man has been a familiar figure upon the streets of Beatrice, and it is no exaggeration to say that many in this community will learn of his demise with genuine sorrow."

It may well be said that in all of the relations of life Mr. Austin exemplified the faith that makes faithful, and as he was true to himself, so was he true to those who came

within the circle of his kindly and generous influence.

WILLIAM F. ALBERT. — He whose name initiates this paragraph merits recognition as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of his native county and also as a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of this favored section of the state. His well improved farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres, in Section 22 Clatonia township, is that on which he was born and reared, and his progressiveness and enterprise are further signalized in his ownership of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in South Dakota. A tribute to his honored father, Henry Albert, appears on other pages of this work, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present connection.

On the fine homestead farm which he now occupies William Frank Albert was born January 25, 1874, and in addition to receiving in his youth the advantages of the public schools of Clatonia township he also completed an effective course in a business college in the city of Lincoln. He has never wavered in his allegiance to the great fundamental industries of agriculture and stock-raising and he purchased his father's old homestead farm in 1906. He has here made excellent improvements of a permanent order, including the erection of his present modern and attractive residence. Prior to buying the old home farm he had successfully conducted a horse ranch for a period of about five years, and at the present time he amplifies his farm enterprise by doing a prosperous business as a buyer and shipper of live stock. He stands exponent of loyal and liberal citizenship and though he has had no ambition for political preferment of any kind he accords staunch allegiance to the Republican party.

On the 26th of February, 1902, Mr. Albert wedded Anna Carstens, who likewise was born and reared in this county, where her parents established their home more than forty years ago. Mrs. Albert is a daughter of Tebbe G. and Scente (Gerdes) Carstens, whose marriage was solemnized at Rushville, Illinois, March 2, 1870, and who became residents of Gage county in 1876. Mr. Carstens was born in Hanover, Germany, March 4, 1846, a son of John and Gesche (Aschen) Carstens, the latter of whom died in Germany and the former of whom passed the closing years of his life in Gage county, where two of his sons established homes in the pioneer days. Upon immigrating from his native land to America, in 1867, Tebbe G. Carstens settled in Illinois, and there he continued his active association with agricultural pursuits until 1876, when he came with his family to Gage county. Here he farmed on rented land for the first four years, and he then purchased eighty acres in Section 10, Clatonia township. Later he added eighty acres to his landed estate and he continued as one of the energetic and successful farmers of Clatonia township until 1904, when he and his wife established their residence in the village of Clatonia, where he has since lived virtually retired. Mrs. Carstens was born at Scheindorff, Germany, April 24, 1847, a daughter of Joachim A. and Steinten W. (Rademacher) Gerdes, who passed their entire lives in Germany. Mrs. Carstens came to America in 1869 and her marriage occurred the following year, as previously noted in this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Carstens became the parents of five children, concerning whom the following brief data are available: Gesiene, who became the wife of Edward Krauter, is deceased; Joachim and John M. are residents of Fairbury, Jefferson county, Nebraska; Mrs. Anna Albert was the next in order of birth; and William G. has the active management of his father's old homestead farm. Mr. and Mrs. Albert have three children — Melvin, Verneita, and Kermit.

DANIEL E. TRACEY. — For nearly sixteen years Daniel E. Tracey has been successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Adams township. One of the prime elements of success in any position, calling or profession in life is adaptability, and strength in this essential has been the secret of the success achieved by Daniel E. Tracey and his wife,

who has been his earnest helpmeet and co-adjutor. In their definite adaptability they have proved able to cope with the problems of life as they presented themselves. Mr. Tracey is a man among men — one to whom his fellow citizens look with confidence — and he takes his place among the many who are earnest in service that makes for the advancement of the community along civic, educational, and spiritual lines.

Mr. and Mrs. Tracey are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity in an active way, is a newly elected member of the school board of Adams, and for a number of years he was president of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Adams, Nebraska. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tracey take an active part in church life and in the affairs of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Tracey being in 1917-1918, the worthy matron of Adams Chapter, No. 163.

Daniel E. Tracey was born at Bloomington, Illinois, on the 20th of October, 1869, and is a son of John and Margaret (O'Brien) Tracey, both natives of Ireland. John Tracey became a successful contractor at Bloomington, Illinois, where he continued his residence until 1883. In that year he came with his family to Nebraska and established the home in the city of Lincoln, where he continued his activities as a contractor until the time of his death, in 1890. He left to mourn his loss his wife and their six children — Daniel Edward, Mary Alice, Winifred, John and Margaret (twins), and Harry James.

He whose name initiates this review was fourteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, and he was an earnest and ambitious youth of twenty years at the time of his father's death. Always ready to hear and respond to the cry of the widow and orphan, he assumed large measure of responsibility in connection with home affairs after the death of his father, and proved himself a boy of whom any mother might well be proud, the while the responsibilities which thus devolved upon him tended to mature and solidify his character.

Mr. Tracey received his youthful education in the public schools of Bloomington, Illinois, and Lincoln, Nebraska. In the latter city he was for several years in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, and in 1894 he became a member of the Lincoln fire department, in which he rendered valuable and efficient service for a period of eight years. He became lieutenant at Engine House No. 1 and was about to be advanced to the position of captain when he resigned to take up his residence on the farm on which he now lives. This is a valuable tract of one hundred and twenty acres, in Section 23, Adams township, and one mile northeast of the village of Adams. This property came to him and his wife as a part of the parental inheritance of Mrs. Tracey. On this fine rural estate Mr. and Mrs. Tracey have worked together earnestly and effectively and on the same they have erected a residence which is as comfortable and commodious as any other of the farm homes in Adams township and which is a favored resort for the host of friends whom they have gathered about them.

On the 9th of August, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Tracey to Miss Mary A. Zuver, who was born January 24, 1877, a daughter of Byron P. and Nancy (Adams) Zuver, concerning whom definite record is made on other pages of this volume. Mrs. Tracey is a granddaughter of John O. Adams, the first settler of Gage county, and she can recount many interesting incidents of pioneer life, as told to her by her mother. The Adams family located at Adams in the spring of 1857, a full decade before Nebraska Territory became a state, and at that time the site of Adams, named in honor of this sterling pioneer family, was nothing more than a barren prairie. Mrs. Tracey was born in a log cabin in Hooker township, this county, and most of her life thus far has been passed in her native county. Mr. and Mrs. Tracey became the parents of three children: Harold Edward and Winifred Lillian remain at the parental home, and Marjory Josephine died in infancy. Mrs. Tracey was graduated in the high school at Adams and later attended a leading conserva-

tory of music in the city of Lincoln. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tracey are active in Red Cross work since the nation has become involved in the great world war and are also prominent in community affairs in general.

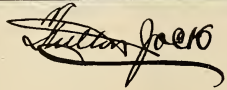
FULTON JACK. — Associated with Judge Alfred Hazlett in the control of a large and important law business in the city of Beatrice, Mr. Jack is junior member of the firm of Hazlett & Jack and, like his honored professional coadjutor, of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this publication, he claims the historic old Keystone state as the place of his nativity, his paternal great-great-grandfather having been a native of Ireland and having settled in Pennsylvania in the early colonial history of that commonwealth. Patrick Jack, great-grandfather of the subject of this review, was a captain in the war of the Revolution, in which he was a representative of Pennsylvania.

Fulton Jack was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, on the 17th of June, 1869, and is a son of James M. and Elizabeth (Fulton) Jack, both of whom were likewise born and reared in Pennsylvania and both of whom were residents of Indiana county, that state, at the time of their death, their religious faith having been that of the Presbyterian church and the father having given the major part of his active career to the basic industry of agriculture. After having duly profited by the advantages of the public schools of his native state Fulton Jack there entered historic old Washington & Jefferson College at Washington, Pennsylvania, this having been the first collegiate institution founded to the west of the Alleghany mountains. He was graduated in this college in 1892. Mr. Jack began the reading of law when he was about twenty-three years of age, his studies having been pursued in the Northern Indiana Law School, and under the preceptorship of Alfred Hazlett, and with utmost diligence and receptiveness he applied himself to the mastering of the involved science of jurisprudence. He has been a resident of Beatrice, Nebraska, since 1894, and was admitted to the bar in that year. In the following year he became associated with Judge Hazlett in practice, this effective professional alliance having since continued without interruption. Mr. Jack is recognized as an able trial lawyer and well fortified counselor, and he has appeared in connection with much important litigation in the courts of this and other states.

In politics Mr. Jack is arrayed as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and while he has shown a lively interest in the furtherance of the success of his party and been an active worker in its local ranks he has not been imbued with any ambition for public office, as he considers his profession worthy of his undivided time and attention. He is affiliated with the time-honored Masonic fraternity. He and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church.

August 20, 1896, recorded the marriage of Mr. Jack to Miss Angie Pollock, who was born and reared in Nebraska, where her parents, Robert H. and Maria (Parks) Pollock, established their home in the pioneer days, Mr. Pollock having been one of the early settlers of Pawnee county. Mr. and Mrs. Jack have three children. Fulton, Jr., with youthful loyalty and patriotism that mark him as a worthy scion of Revolutionary stock, enlisted in Co. C, Fifth Nebraska National Guard, at the outbreak of the trouble with Mexico in 1916, and as a member of that company he entered the service of his country in the great European war. At the time of this writing, February, 1918, he is at Camp Stanley, Texas, an officers' training camp, to which he was recently appointed. The two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary Josephine, are students in the Beatrice high school. The family is one of prominence in the representative social life of the community.

A. L. BOYER, who has been for thirty years actively engaged in the work of his trade in the village of Virginia, is known as a skilled blacksmith and has developed a substantial and prosperous business in the operation of his well equipped shop, which was the first to be opened in the village and which has



continued to be the only establishment of the kind at Virginia during the long period of years that have here marked his close application to his sturdy trade. Mr. Boyer was a boy at the time when the family home was established in the new state of Nebraska, and he gained a plethora of experience in connection with the conditions and influences of the pioneer era in the history of Gage county.

Mr. Boyer was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, on the 8th of October, 1855, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Shunk) Boyer, both of whom likewise were born in the old Keystone state, where the mother passed her entire life. John and Elizabeth (Shunk) Boyer became the parents of six sons and four daughters, and three of the number became residents of Nebraska. Of the children the subject of this review is now the only survivor. For his second wife John Boyer wedded Mrs. Mary Yohe, widow of Henry Yohe, and in 1865 they came to the west and settled in Iowa county, Iowa, John Boyer having there followed his trade, that of harness-maker. In May, 1868, Mr. Boyer came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead claim in Nemaha township. He there developed a productive farm and on the same both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, no children having been born of the second marriage.

A. L. Boyer gained his early education in the schools of Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Nebraska, and was a lad of thirteen years at the time when the family home was established in Gage county. Here he was reared to adult age and in the meanwhile he assisted in the development and other work of the home farm. When he was sixteen years of age he had a somewhat thrilling experience in the saving of the family house and other property from destruction by a prairie fire. This experience occurred on Sunday. He had started to accompany his parents to church at Adams, but a seeming premonition urged him to return home, and it was most fortunate that he heeded the impulse. He had on his best suit of clothes, and he sacrificed the coat in his strenuous efforts to check the fire. With buckets of water and his coat he saved the house from destruction, as well as a pile of grain in a log enclosure and three of the five stacks of hay. He was overcome finally by the smoke and heat and was found lying on the ground when his parents returned. At the age of seventeen years he hauled grade stakes for John Lyons, who was then laying out the township of Adams. Among his other early experiences was that incidental to three years of application in breaking wild prairie land.

At the age of twenty years Mr. Boyer went to Hamburg, Iowa, where he served a thorough apprenticeship to the blacksmith trade. In October, 1888, he opened the first blacksmith shop at Virginia, and, as before intimated, he has had no competitor in this line during the long intervening years. He is widely known as an expert artisan and turns out in his shop the best grade of work, with facilities including modern machinery and accessories for the handling of all kinds of blacksmith work, as well as wood work for wagons, plows, etc.

At Tecumseh, this state, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Boyer to Miss Mary Jane Applebee, a sister of John Applebee, in whose sketch, on other pages of this work, is given due record concerning the Applebee family. The eldest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Boyer is Arthur, who resides in the village of Virginia, the maiden name of his wife having been Catherine McGaffey; James Melvin married Miss McGaffey and he is an evangelist of the Christian church, his field of work being in Nebraska; James Milo married Miss Lantz and they reside at Newcastle, Wyoming; Gertrude is the wife of Clarence Haus, of Sherman township, Gage county; Iva is the wife of David Hoover, of Lewiston, Pawnee county; and Maggie, Ellen, and Lewis remain at the parental home.

Mr. Boyer is a Republican in his political adherency, and he and his wife are active members of the Christian church.

The village of Virginia was but one year old when Mr. Boyer here established his home,

and he has since continued as one of its representative business men and valued citizens. The first children born in the village were his twin daughters, Gertrude and Myrtle, the latter of whom is deceased.

J. HENRY STEINMEYER. — He whose name initiates this paragraph is a representative of one of the most honored and influential pioneer families of Gage county and in addition to having shared in the generous rewards that eventually crowned the productive industrial activities of his pioneer father he has marked his individual course with large and worthy achievement, with the result that he is now one of the substantial landholders of Gage county and an influential factor in banking enterprise and other lines of business. In his home county he is the owner of four hundred acres of well improved and valuable farm land, besides which he owns six hundred and forty acres of excellent agricultural land in Allen and Coffey counties, Kansas, so that the total area of his landed estate is over one thousand acres. His capitalistic interests in Gage county are varied and important and since 1910 he has maintained his residence in Beatrice, the attractive metropolis and judicial center of the county, his residence, at 821 North Eleventh street, being one of the fine and modern homes of the city and being a center of gracious hospitality.

J. Henry Steinmeyer was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 17th of May, 1853, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Fredker) Steinmeyer, both of whom were likewise natives of that attractive section of the great German empire, the father having been born in July, 1814, and the mother in August, 1810. In the fatherland Henry Steinmeyer was reared to the discipline of the farm and there he continued his alliance with agricultural enterprise until 1856, when he immigrated with his family to America and settled in Scioto county, Ohio. There he worked in the iron furnaces for the ensuing ten years, and in addition to providing well for his family he was able to accumulate a modest reserve fund of money. The voyage across the Atlantic was made in a sailing vessel of the type common to that day, and seven weeks elapsed ere the family disembarked in the port of Baltimore, Maryland, whence shortly afterward they proceeded to southern Ohio and located in Scioto county, as before noted.

Though he had prospered during his association with the iron-furnace industry in the Buckeye state, Henry Steinmeyer had not abated his loyalty to and appreciation of the great fundamental industry of agriculture, and as soon as conditions made it expedient he resumed his alliance with the same. In 1866 he came with his family to the territory of Nebraska, which was admitted to statehood the following year and to which his sons William and Fred had preceded him by about one year. With ox teams Mr. Steinmeyer brought his family overland from Nebraska City to Gage county, and here he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres — the southwest quarter of Section 22, Clatonia township. The original family domicile was a rude dugout of the type common to the pioneer era, and the stable which he provided for his oxen and horses was constructed principally of straw. Grappling vigorously with the task that confronted him, Mr. Steinmeyer gradually broke his land and made it available for cultivation, besides which he improved the place by setting out trees and, eventually, by the erection of a good house and other farm buildings. After giving his personal attention to the homestead for ten years he gave the property to his son J. Henry, of this review, with whom he lived in retirement after the death of his devoted wife, their marriage having been solemnized in 1835. Mrs. Steinmeyer passed to the life eternal in 1874, and her husband long survived her, he having been somewhat more than eighty years of age at the time of his death, in 1895, and his name meriting a place of enduring honor on the roster of the honored pioneers of Gage county. Both he and his wife were earnest members of the German Methodist church and as a naturalized citizen ever loyal to the country of his adoption, he gave his political support to the cause of the Republican party. Of the

six children one died in infancy; Mary, who became the wife of William Marsh, died in the year 1868; William, who became one of the representative farmers and influential citizens of Clatonia township, continued his residence in Gage county until his death, which occurred in 1911; Frederick, who is now living retired in the village of Clatonia, was a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, in which he served three years, as a member of the Fifty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry; J. Henry, of this sketch, was the next in order of birth and is the youngest of the children.

J. Henry Steinmeyer was about three years of age at the time of the family immigration to America and was a lad of thirteen years when removal was made to Nebraska Territory. He acquired his early education in the schools of Scioto county, Ohio, and supplemented this by attending at intervals the pioneer district schools of Clatonia township, Gage county, Nebraska, where he was reared under the invigorating influences of the home farm, which was finally given to him by his honored father, as noted in a preceding paragraph. In 1885 he engaged in the general merchandise business at Dewitt, Saline county, where he continued operations along this line, in connection with the buying and shipping of grain, until 1894. When, in the year last mentioned, the village of Clatonia was established on a portion of his father's old homestead farm, Mr. Steinmeyer manifested his loyalty to the old home county and the new town by becoming one of the first and most active business men of the ambitious village, where he established a well equipped grain elevator and developed a substantial and profitable business in the buying and shipping of grain and live stock. He was one of the first two stockholders of the Farmers' Bank of Clatonia, in the organization of which he was associated with his brother William, and in 1905 he established the Holmesville Bank, in the village of Holmesville, of which institution he is now the sole stockholder. He was also one of the organizers and is the chief stockholder of the company which installed and still operates the electric power and lighting plant at Holmesville, of which company he is the president. In the domain of business and industrial enterprise he has found ample demands upon his time and energy and thus he has not been imbued with any desire for special political activity or for public office, though he is found aligned as a loyal supporter of the principles for which the Republican party stands sponsor. In 1901 Mr. Steinmeyer was elected to the Nebraska state legislature, serving one term. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist church in their home city.

On the 18th of March, 1875, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Steinmeyer to Miss Ellen Unland, who was born in Cass county, Illinois, a daughter of Rev. F. and Nancy (Wagle) Unland, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter in the state of Kentucky, where their marriage was solemnized. In 1873 Rev. F. Unland came with his family to Nebraska, as a pioneer clergyman of the German Methodist church, and he had in the early days pastoral charge of the church of his denomination at Kramer, Lancaster county, and that in Clatonia township, Gage county. He and his wife are both deceased. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeyer the eldest is Emma, who is the wife of Dr. B. M. Deardorff, who is successfully established in the practice of his profession at Clatonia and who is one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county; George W., now of Beatrice, was superintendent of the Holmesville Mill and Power Company, and is one of the young men who are representing our nation as a soldier in the great European war, his training for service as an officer being received in the government cantonment and training camp at Fort Snelling, Minnesota; Nettie E. is the wife of Charles S. Brown, of Aurora, Nebraska, who is cashier of the Fidelity National Bank; Myrtle B. is the wife of W. G. Chittenden, and they reside on her paternal grandfather's old homestead farm, in Clatonia township; Robert H. is cashier of his father's bank at Holmesville; Gladys is the wife of H. W. Alquist, of Be-

atrice, assistant cashier of the Nebraska State Bank; and William F. is assistant cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Clatonia.

EDWARD W. A. ULRICH. — In Section 5, Grant township, a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres is owned by Mr. Ulrich, and he is so ordering his productive activities as to have secure status as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the younger generation in this part of Gage county.

Mr. Ulrich was born in Marshall county, Illinois, on the 13th of April, 1880, and is the youngest of the six children of Charles G. and Johannah (Graff) Ulrich. Concerning the other children the following brief data are consistently given: Mena is the wife of F. Burger, a prosperous farmer near Wilber, Saline county; Anna is the wife of George Burger, a farmer of Grant township; Mary is the wife of J. Menter, another of the substantial farmers of Grant township, within whose borders Albert Ulrich, next in order of birth, likewise is a progressive exponent of farm industry; the fifth child, Charles, died when about twenty-one years of age.

Charles G. Ulrich was born in Germany, on the 28th of November, 1840, and there he continued his residence until about 1865, when he came to America and settled in Illinois. He became one of the substantial farmers of Marshall county, that state, where he continued his residence until 1883, when he came to Nebraska and purchased the farm now operated by his son Edward, of this review. He made good improvements on the place and developed the same into one of the valuable farm properties of Grant township. Here he remained, an honored citizen and enterprizing farmer, until his death, which occurred in October, 1913. After the death of his first wife he eventually married Miss Amelia Boise, who likewise was born in Germany, and who now resides in the village of Dewitt, Saline county. Of the second marriage there are two daughters — Augusta, who is the wife of H. Feldhus, of Dewitt, and Dora, who remains with her widowed mother.

Edward W. A. Ulrich was a child of three years at the time of the family removal to Gage county, where he was reared to manhood on his present farm and where he made good use of the advantages of the district school located on a part of the home farm, his father having aided in the organization of this school district (No. 149) and having served a number of years as a director of the same. Upon the death of his father Mr. Ulrich inherited eighty acres of his present farm, and later he accumulated through purchase the remaining eighty acres. As a vigorous and successful farmer and liberal citizen he is well upholding the prestige of the family name, he is a Democrat in his political adherency and he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church.

On the 24th of February, 1909, Mr. Ulrich wedded Miss Katherine Spilker. She was born and reared in Grant township, a daughter of William and Louisa (Pieper) Spilker, who still remain on their home farm in this township and both of whom were born in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich have six children — Edna, Emil, Helen, Arnold, Walter, and Norma.

EDGAR ROSSITER. — A native son of Gage county and a representative of an honored pioneer family, Mr. Rossiter is now successfully established in the meat-market and ice business in the village of Dewitt, Saline county, where he has maintained his home for more than a quarter of a century and been a specially progressive and influential citizen.

Mr. Rossiter was born in Midland township, Gage county, October 11, 1862, about five years prior to the admission of Nebraska to the Union of states. He is a son of Richard and Mary (Green) Rossiter, and is the fifth of a family of seven children. A memoir of Richard Rossiter will be found elsewhere in this publication.

Edward Rossiter was reared to the invigorating discipline of the pioneer farm on which he was born, received such educational advantages as were afforded in the common schools of the locality and period, and con-

tinued to assist his father in practical farm operations until he attained to his legal majority. He passed the ensuing three years in Colorado and upon his return to Nebraska settled in Dewitt, Saline county, where he engaged in business, with which he was successfully identified for a term of years. Since 1904 he has conducted a well equipped meat-market in the village and also has a prosperous business in the handling of ice. He has here maintained his home for twenty-eight years and has been influential in civic affairs, having served fifteen years as a member of the village council, and on three occasions he was mayor, or president of the village board. Liberal and progressive, he has done much to further the social and material development and advancement of Dewitt and he commands the high esteem of all who know him. He is a stalwart in the local camp of the Republican party, is actively affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, and he and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church. He is the owner of the undivided interest of the old homestead in Grant and Blakely townships, the same being part of the estate accumulated by his father.

On January 28, 1882, Mr. Rossiter wedded Miss Pluma A. Thompson, who was born at Leavenworth, Kansas, and who is a daughter of Martin W. and Evelyn (Jones) Thompson, the former a native of Kentucy and the latter of Virginia. Mr. Thompson came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, about the year 1864, and settled eight miles north of Beatrice, where he reclaimed and improved a good farm and where he continued to reside for many years. He was at Leadville, Colorado, at the time of his death, his wife having survived him only a short time, and the remains of both are interred in Dolan cemetery in Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Rossiter have four children: Charles E. is a railroad employe at Wymore, Gage county; Burton W. is associated with his father in the meat-market business; Edna A. is the wife of Ralph W. Venrick, of Norfolk, Madison county, Nebraska; and Vera is the wife of Willis H. Leacock, of St. Joseph, Missouri.

ADAM CRIPE, who is now living virtually retired on his excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 23, Rockford township, is one of the venerable and highly esteemed pioneer citizens of Gage county, where he has maintained his home since 1877.

Mr. Cripe was born on a farm near the city of Goshen, Indiana, May 11, 1844, and is a scion of a sterling pioneer family of the Hoosier state, his parents, Henry and Magdalena (Miller) Cripe, having been natives of Ohio, where the former was born in 1818 and the latter in 1817. Both families have been notable for longevity and Henry Cripe attained to the age of ninety years, his death having occurred in 1908, while his widow passed away in 1911, at the age of ninety-four years, their marriage having been solemnized in Indiana, where Mr. Cripe became a pioneer settler in Elkhart county. He obtained a tract of heavily timbered land, made a clearing and erected thereon a log house, with dirt floor, and this constituted the original home of the family. Of the twelve children the subject of this review was the fourth, and of the number six are now living. The parents continued their residence in Indiana until their death and prior to his demise the father had divided his land among his children: his father, Jacob Cripe, was a pioneer of Indiana and there died at the patriarchal age of one hundred and three years. The wife of Henry Cripe was a daughter of John Miller, who was a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer settler in Ohio.

Adam Cripe was reared on the pioneer farm in Indiana and acquired his early education in the common schools. He received from his wife's parents eighty acres of land in Kosciusko county and there continued his activities as a farmer until his removal to Montgomery county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming ten years. He then, in 1877, came to Gage county, Nebraska, where for the ensuing three years he farmed on rented land. He then purchased the quarter-section which constitutes his present well improved homestead, and his farm is now under the active management of one of his sons.

November 5, 1865, Mr. Cripe married Miss Susanna Jacobs, who likewise was born and

reared in Indiana, and of the eight children of this union five are living: Harley is a farmer near Mankato, Kansas; Eva Jenetta is the wife of Ray Lancaster, a farmer in Rockford township; William E. has charge of his father's farm; Jesse left the parental home fifteen years ago and his family have lost all trace of him; Mary is the wife of Frank Heiston, who is engaged in the automobile business at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Cripe is well fortified in his political views and gives his support to the cause of the Democratic party. Both he and his wife, who has been his companion and helpmeet for more than half a century, are earnest adherents of the Brethren church.

ROBERT PEASE. — In his specific field of business enterprise Mr. Pease is contributing much to the facilitating of the basic industries of Gage county and he holds secure vantage-ground as one of the alert and progressive business men and representative citizens of Beatrice, where he is the owner of the large and prosperous business conducted under the title of the Pease Grain & Seed Company. He combines the energy and thrift of his New England forebears with the vital and progressive spirit of the west, and thus he is well equipped for playing a useful part in the communal and business life of his adopted city and county.

Mr. Pease was born in Somers, Connecticut, on the 19th of December, 1869, and in that state his parents, Robert and Eliza Billings (Hall) Pease, passed their entire lives, his father having been a farmer by vocation. He whose name introduces this review is indebted to the public schools of his native state for his early educational discipline and there also he gained his initial experience in connection with the practical affairs of a workaday world. In 1892, at the age of twenty-two years, Mr. Pease came to Nebraska and established his residence in the city of Omaha, where he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, in a clerical capacity. Later he was employed in the United States railway mail service for a period of about seven years, and after his retirement from this position he passed three years in the state of Colorado, where he gave his attention principally to general mercantile business. Thereafter he was located at Salina, Kansas, until 1906, when he came to Beatrice, Nebraska, and purchased a half interest in the grain and seed business then conducted under the title of Cummings & Laughlin. In 1910 he assumed sole control of this well established enterprise, which he has since conducted under the title of the Pease Grain & Seed Company, his operative facilities being of the best and including a grain elevator with a capacity for the accommodation of sixty-five thousand bushels. Mr. Pease has one of the most thoroughly modern elevators in the west. It is equipped with machinery for the handling and cleaning of grain and with other facilities seldom found outside the principal terminal markets. The seed department of his business has been built up by himself and has become one of major importance. In this department are the best of provisions for the handling of both field and garden seeds of all kinds and a large and constantly expanding trade is controlled by this department, both wholesale and retail.

Known as a liberal and progressive business man and public-spirited citizen, Mr. Pease has had no desire to enter the arena of practical politics but is found aligned as a loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church.

In the year 1901 Mr. Pease wedded Miss Bertha E. Clark, who was born in the state of Michigan, and the three children of this union are Robert, Jr., Florence C., and Geraldine.

OLIVER TOWNSEND. — A publication of this nature exercises a most important function when it accords recognition, through fitting memorial tribute, to the life and labors of so influential and honored a pioneer as the late Hon. Oliver Townsend, whose record of service and achievement is a very part of the history of Gage county and especially its ju-

dicial center, the fair city of Beatrice. His character was the positive expression of a strong and loyal nature, his mentality was of high order and he was well equipped for leadership in popular sentiment and action when he numbered himself among the earliest settlers of Gage county. He was the true apostle of civic and material progress and made his life count for good in its every relation.

Oliver Townsend was born in Ulster county, New York, October 4, 1834, the youngest son in the family of nine children and a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of that section of the old Empire state, and likewise of one that was founded in America in the early colonial era of our national history, the lineage of the Townsend family tracing back to staunch English origin. The subject of this memoir was a son of Joseph and Nancy (Tompkins) Townsend, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of the state of New York. Joseph Townsend was a very early settler in Ulster county, New York, where he reclaimed from the wilds a productive farm and held secure status as an honored and influential citizen. His wife there passed away in 1847, and he survived her by twenty years. Oliver Townsend was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and in his native county acquired his preliminary education in the common schools. As a youth he became clerk in a hotel in Knightstown, New York, and later he was similarly engaged at Hudson, that state. Later he amplified his educational training by attending school both at Claverack and Ellenville, New York.

In 1856, as a young man of twenty-two years, Mr. Townsend went to Huron county, Ohio, and in January of the following year he made his way to the little frontier town of Sioux City, Iowa, where he remained until the following autumn, when he came to southern Nebraska and here determined to establish his permanent residence — a full decade prior to the admission of the territory to statehood. He entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, a portion of which is now included within the city of Beatrice, and for the ensuing four years he devoted himself strenuously to the reclaiming and improving of his land, which is now a very valuable property and which he held in his possession many years.

In 1865 Mr. Townsend became associated with the late H. M. Reynolds in establishing a general merchandise store at the corner of Court and Third streets in the little town of Beatrice, and in 1867 Hon. Nathan Blakely was admitted to the firm, the title of which then became Blakely, Reynolds & Company. Four years later Mr. Blakely sold his interest in the business, which was thereafter continued under the firm name of Reynolds & Townsend until 1872, when Mr. Townsend retired, selling his interest to Mr. Reynolds. In 1874 Mr. Townsend engaged in the clothing business, and to the same he gave the major part of his time and attention from 1877 until 1893, when he retired from active business, after a long and honorable record as one of the most successful and popular merchants of Gage county.

Unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party and well fortified in his convictions concerning matters of economic and governmental import, Mr. Townsend was influential in political affairs in this section of the state. In 1858 he was elected county clerk, and of this office he continued the efficient and valued incumbent for ten years, or until the admission of Nebraska to statehood, besides which he was *ex officio* register of deeds for the county during the same period. In 1867 he had the distinction of being elected a representative of Gage county in the first legislature of the new state, and in this office he made a characteristically admirable record of faithful and effective service during his term of two years, his influence being given earnestly to the furtherance of the movement that resulted in the establishing of the state capital at Lincoln. He was at all times liberal and progressive in his civic attitude, loyally supported measures and enterprises tending to advance the social and material advancement of his home city and county, and none

had more secure place in popular confidence and esteem. His religious faith was that of the Unitarian church, of which his widow likewise is a devoted adherent, and he passed the closing period of his life on his beautiful farm, just to the east of the city of Beatrice, where his death occurred April 31, 1914, and where his widow still resides — one of the loved pioneer women of Gage county.

On April 21, 1880, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Townsend to Miss Kate Monce, who was born in the state of Ohio, July 6, 1859, and whose father, the late Samuel Monce, was one of the early settlers of Nebraska City. Mr. Townsend is survived by three children: Jeane Beatrice is the wife of Dr. Irwin A. Port, a successful physician and surgeon engaged in practice in the city of Chicago; Ruth, who is a graduate of the Beatrice high school and a popular factor in the social life of the community, remains with her widowed mother; and Catherine Ann is a member of the class of 1918 in the great University of Chicago.

FORD LEWIS. — There is a full measure of consistency in according in this history a tribute of honor to the late Ford Lewis, though he never established his home in Gage county. He was a man of distinctive ability and his mature judgment was significantly shown when he made large investments in Nebraska lands in the year which marked the admission of the state to the Union. His operations in the handling of real estate in other sections of the Union had already been large and important, and thus his knowledge of land values was essentially authoritative. Not mere speculative venturing attended his investment in land in the new commonwealth of Nebraska, for he had the prescience to discern the wonderful future possible for the state and was prepared to do an active part in furthering its civic and material development and upbuilding. He thus early became the owner of Gage county land and he not only developed and improved his various holdings here and elsewhere in the state but he also gave vital and liberal support to important undertakings and enterprises that proved of inestimable value in fostering the march of progress in the new state. Mr. Lewis became well and favorably known in southeastern Nebraska, where he passed much time at intervals, in the supervision of his landed interests, and such was the benignant influence which attached to his activities as touching Gage county that, as before stated, it is most consistent that representation be accorded him in this publication. Mr. Lewis was a man of fine constructive powers, much initiative and administrative ability, and noble character — a man who did much for Nebraska and especially for Gage county, where his only daughter, Mrs. Dwight S. Dalbey now maintains her home.

Ford Lewis was born at Deckertown, New Jersey, on the 25th of July, 1829, and for many years he maintained his home at Jerseyville, Illinois, where his death occurred on the 30th of November, 1901, after he had passed, by about two years, the psalmist's span of three score years and ten. Mr. Lewis was a scion of a family that was founded in America in the colonial period of our national history and his father became a prosperous merchant at Deckertown, New Jersey. In his youth Mr. Lewis was afforded good educational advantages, as gauged by the standards of the locality and period. Thus it may be noted that he was a student at Mount Retermet Seminary, that he later attended William Rankin's classical school, and that finally he took a practical business course under the tutorship of Christopher Marsh, widely known as the man who devised and perfected the double-entry system of bookkeeping, his school having been at the corner of Reade street and Broadway, New York city. After finishing school work Mr. Lewis found employment as a bookkeeper in business establishments, and he was thus engaged first at Hamburg and later at Hackettstown, New Jersey. His vigorous ambition was not, however, to be satisfied with such occupation, for in his youth, as throughout his entire life, he was essentially a forward-looking man. After he had gained due preliminary experience in connection with the real-

estate business Mr. Lewis determined to identify himself with the progressive west, but after proceeding as far as Syracuse, New York, he was induced to become a member of the firm of Chapman & Lewis, which there engaged in the manufacturing of watch cases and in the importing of high-grade watch movements. The firm supplied watches of standard type to railway officials, including conductors and engineers on the New York Central and other railways, and with this prosperous enterprise Mr. Lewis continued his alliance until 1856, when he sold his interest in the business and accepted the general agency of the large Morse publishing house of New York City, with headquarters at Charleston, South Carolina, during the winter season and at Cleveland, Ohio, during the intervening summer months. This connection he maintained until 1859, when he accompanied his parents and his sister on their removal to Jerseyville, Illinois, — a place that was to represent his home during the remainder of his long and useful life. There he engaged in the real-estate business, handling both town and farm property, and his success in this important line of productive enterprise led him to extend his operations into Nebraska when the territory assumed the dignity of statehood, in 1867. In company with Hon. Robert M. Knapp, Mr. Lewis made in that year his initial visit to Nebraska, where he also made his first investment in government land in the new commonwealth. In Gage, Johnson, Pawnee, Otoe, and Lancaster counties, as now constituted, he became the owner of about eighteen thousand acres of land, and much of this he retained in his possession until the close of his life, the appreciation in its value under his well ordered policies of improvement and incidental to the rapid settlement and development of the state in general, having added largely to the value of his estate, which was a large and substantial one at the time of his death. The various deeds to the land which he thus obtained in Nebraska bore the signatures of Presidents Johnson, Lincoln, and Grant, and the documents are now in the possession of Mr. Lewis's only surviving child, Mrs. Dwight S. Dalbey, of Beatrice. Mr. Lewis had unfaltering faith and confidence in Nebraska, and during the successive summers he here passed considerable time in supervising the development and other improvement work in connection with his landed interests. He was essentially the apostle of progress and gave freely of his influence and coöperation in the support of measures and enterprises that tended to advance the social and material development and prosperity of Nebraska. He was specially influential in promoting the enterprise which eventuated in the construction of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad line through southeastern Nebraska, also the Kansas City & Northwestern, which terminated at Virginia, and these lines traversed lands owned by him. The now fine little town of Virginia, Gage county, was founded by Mr. Lewis and was named in honor of his only daughter, Virginia. He contributed most liberally to the development and upbuilding of this town, as did he also to that of Lewiston, Pawnee county, which likewise was founded by him and which perpetuates his name. Further incidental data relative to the life and achievement of Mr. Lewis appear on other pages, in the sketch dedicated to Dwight S. Dalbey, of Beatrice, husband of Mr. Lewis's only surviving child. Mr. Lewis was the owner of valuable properties in his home city of Jerseyville, Illinois, as well as in other parts of the country, and his success was large in connection with the various enterprises with which he identified himself. He was not, however, self-centered, but was appreciative of the responsibilities which success involves and had a high sense of personal stewardship. He lived an earnest, honorable and useful life and upon its record there rests no shadow now that he has passed from the stage of his mortal endeavors.

Mr. Lewis was essentially a man of though and action and though he was well fortified in his convictions concerning economic and governmental policies and was a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, he had no desire for public office of

Dr. by E. S. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Fred Lewis

any kind. Both he and his wife were active members of the Presbyterian church.

On the 24th of July, 1864, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Lewis to Miss Elizabeth Davis, of Jerseyville, Illinois, and this gracious companion survived him by about fifteen years. From the year 1097 until her death she passed a portion of each year with her only remainder at her old home in Jerseyville, Illidaughter, in Beatrice, Gage county, and the nois. She was summoned to the life eternal on the 9th of August, 1916, her memory being revered by all who came within the compass of her gracious influence. Of the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis more specific mention is made on other pages of this volume, as already intimated.

HARM D. HARMS gives his effective service in the management and operations of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he and his wife own in Section 23, Hanover township, and he is known as one of the representative agriculturists and stockgrowers of this township. He was born in Atchison county, Missouri, December 4, 1878 and has been a resident of Nebraska since he was a child of three years. He is a son of Dirk and Ellen Harms, the former a native of Germany and the latter of the state of Missouri, where their marriage occurred. Dirk Harms was a young man when he came to the United States and prior to coming to Nebraska he had been actively engaged in farm enterprise in Illinois and Missouri. In 1881 he came with his family to Gage county, where he engaged in farm operations for the ensuing thirteen years. He then removed to Franklin county, where he became a prosperous farmer and where he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred about the year 1912 and his widow being still a resident of that county.

Harm D. Harms acquired his early education in the district schools of Gage county and later attended school for a time after the family removal to Franklin county. He thereafter found employment at farm work and was thus engaged after he returned to Gage county. Here, in the year 1905, he married Miss Mary Remmers, who was born and reared on their present farm, which she inherited from the estate of her father, Thomas Remmers, of whom mention is made on other pages of this publication. The old homestead farm occupied and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harms is one of the well improved and attractive places of Hanover township, and here he is successfully carrying on his operations as a general farmer. He and his wife have four children,—Sophia, Emma, Dirk, and Carrie.

VICTOR E. RYHD. — In another article appearing within the pages of this publication is given special mention of the Dole Floral Company, which is one of the leading concerns of its kind in this part of Nebraska and the operations of which contribute materially to the industrial prestige of the city of Beatrice. Of this important corporation Mr. Ryhd is the secretary, and his standing as a progressive business man and loyal and public-spirited citizen of Betarice clearly entitles him to recognition within these pages. He maintains his residence on the fine grounds of the large greenhouses of the company and has become a recognized authority in the practical details of floriculture and landscape gardening.

Mr.Ryhd was born in Bernshammar, Sweden, on the 28th of May, 1872, and to the schools of his native land he is indebted for his early educational discipline, which was coupled with practical experience, as he was but ten years of age when he began working at otherwise leisure hours in greenhouses in his home city of Bernshammar. His youthful ambition to acquire a thorough technical knowledge of floriculture finally led him to enter a college in which special attention was given to teaching and practical work pertaining to floriculture and landscape gardening, and he continued his studies in this institution until his graduation. Mr. Ryhd continued his association with his chosen vocation in his native land until 1905, when he came to the United States, as he felt assured of better opportunities for here achieving independence and success along the line of his profession.

Proceeding to the city of Chicago, he there found employment in the most extensive greenhouses in the entire west,—those conducted by Pullman Brothers, the conservatories of this concern having fully two million square feet of glass. From Chicago Mr. Ryhd finally went to St. Joseph, Missouri, where for five years he held a responsible position with the large Stuppy greenhouses. He then came to Beatrice, where he has since continued in active charge of the large and modern green houses of the Dole Floral Company and where his ability and progressive methods have aided much in conserving the splendid advancement and success of the company, he having been elected its secretary in the year 1917. He became one of the stockholders of the company at the time its reorganization was effected, in 1913, for commercial expediency, and as secretary he has shown marked circumspection in the directing of the business policies of this important concern. He takes loyal interest in all that touches the welfare of his adopted city and gives his political allegiance to the Democratic party, both he and his wife being communicants of the Lutheran church.

In his native land, in the year 1902, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Ryhd to Miss Emma Hetland, and the two children of this gracious union are Louis and Tellef.

CHARLES C. LEPOIDEVIN was born on the farm which is now his place of residence, in Section 13, Midland township, and is a son of that sterling territorial pioneer of Gage county, Thomas LePoidevin, of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work. Charles C., who holds secure prestige as one of the representative farmers of the younger generation in his native county, was born July 27, 1882, and was reared to manhood under the influences of the home farm, the while he made good use of the educational advantages afforded in the public schools of the locality. At the age of eighteen years he began working by the month as a farm hand, and two years later he rented land and engaged in farming in an independent way. Since 1911 he has had the active control and management of his father's fine farm estate of two hundred and forty acres, where he is bringing to bear the energy and good judgment that insure the maximum of success in well diversified agriculture and stock-raising. In addition to the old homestead he gives supervision also to a well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres which he individually owns and which also is in Midland township. His political allegiance is given to the Democrat party and he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church at Beatrice, from which city their home receives service on rural mail route No. 3.

On March 6, 1907, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. LePoidevin to Miss Mary Barnard, who was born in Clay county, Kentucky, and who is a daughter of George Barnard, her father being given individual recognition elsewhere in this publication. Mr. and Mrs. LePoidevin have three children — Velma, born January 16, 1908; Lucile, born December 14, 1914; and the third child, born February 4, 1918.

BARTLET ADEN was another of the sterling pioneers who gained through association with agricultural and live-stock industry in Gage county a generous measure of success, and though his financial resources when he came to Nebraska were of most limited order he so directed his activities that at the time of his death, January 16, 1910, he was the owner of a valuabled landed estate of three hundred and sixty acres, in Hanover township.

Mr. Aden was born in Hanover, Germany, August 18, 1853, and was there reared and educated. As an ambitious youth of eighteen years he immigrated to America and made his way to the state of Illinois, where he was employed by the month at farm work for some time and where he continued his residence until 1872, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where, after having been for three years identified with farm enterprise as an employe, he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Hanover township. His first house was a rude dug-out of the true pioneer type

and with increasing prosperity he later constructed a substantial frame house, which since his death has been notably remodeled and enlarged by his widow and his only son, who remain on the old homestead. Indefatigable in energy and careful and methodical in his business policies, Mr. Aden achieved unequivocal success through his farm enterprise, and he was one of the representative citizens of Hanover township at the time of his death.

After coming to Gage county Mr. Aden wedded Miss Annie Carstens, a member of an influential pioneer family of this county, and she passed to eternal rest in 1890, a zealous communicant of the Lutheran church. Of the three children of this union two died in infancy and the one surviving is Heye B., a progressive and resourceful young man who is most efficiently managing the family farm estate, in Section 35, Hanover township, save for a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 32, which latter property is rented to a good tenant. As his second wife Mr. Aden married Miss Rachel Schone, who was born in Adams county, Illinois and who remains on the old homestead, as do also her two children, Elsabe and Annie, who are popular factors in the social life of the community. The family hold to the faith of the Lutheran church and the attractive home is known for its gracious hospitality and good cheer.

Heye B. Aden, only son of the honored subject of this memoir, was born on the old home farm of which he now has the active supervision and the date of his nativity was December 26, 1883. Here he has constantly maintained his residence and here he early learned the vital lessons of productive industry, the while he made good use of the advantages afforded in the public schools. He shows great energy and discrimination in his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower and is a representative exponent of farm enterprise in his native county. He brings to bear modern policies in all departments of his farm industry and is committed firmly to the use of the automobile. He holds membership in the Lutheran church. He has under his supervision a fine farm estate of two hundred acres. On June 23, 1917, was solemnized the marriage of Heye B. Aden to Miss Margaret Rohlfs, a daughter of Herman and Mary (Schone) Rohlfs, natives respectively of Germany and Adams county, Illinois. They are now living on their fine farm of eighty acres, in Filley township, Gage county.

JOHN NELSON FULLER was born February 22, 1831, at Paris, Maine, but soon afterward his parents removed to Livermore, Maine, where he grew to manhood. He was a scion of a sterling family that was founded in New England in the colonial period. The original Fuller came to this country in 1644, and settled on the winding banks of the Charles river, at Newton, now a part of the city of Boston.

As Newton is on the direct road to Concord and Lexington, it is not surprising that Mr. Fuller's grandfather Aaron Fuller, and his two great-grandfathers, Elisha Fuller and Simeon Pond, are known to have been in the Revolutionary war, the first mentioned having fought in the battle of Bunker Hill. John N. Fuller was graduated in Hebron Academy and in 1857 in the historic Bowdoin College, which has given to the country so many illustrious sons. His schooling was gained by dint of hard work and perseverance, which is the common story of the country boy without influential friends but ambitious for an education. Prior to and during his college course he taught school with such success that immediately on graduation he received appointment to conduct teachers' institutes under the direction of the state superintendent of Maine. The following year he became principal of Lewiston Falls Academy, which position he later resigned to study law. In due time he was admitted to the bar, but only for a short period was he actively engaged in the practice of law. Upon coming west to Illinois, in the early '60s, he again engaged in educational work, as principal of schools, and county superintendent, and in 1867, he was professor of chemistry and natural sciences in Marshall College, at Henry, Illinois.

At the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. Fuller

responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, and he served in Company B Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, until his discharge.

On December 25, 1867, John N. Fuller married Elizabeth Van Arsdale, who was born April 14, 1848, at Fairview, Illinois, but who was reared in Henry, Illinois. She is the daughter of Peter Beekman Van Arsdale, and his wife, Christianna Van Der Veer, of Fairview, Fulton county, Illinois, who came west in 1838, to make a home on the unbroken prairies of Illinois, — a two months' journey via flat boat down the Ohio river. They were of New Jersey Dutch ancestry that can be traced back to the very earliest settlers of New York and New Jersey. On account of poor health Mr. Fuller was compelled to give up his profession of teaching, and in 1870 he came to Nebraska and settled in the new town of Beatrice. He was the second superintendent of the Beatrice schools and during his brief administration made a distinct and lasting impression on those who came under his instruction, or who were associated with him as teachers. A series of literary entertainments was inaugurated in which both schools and citizens took part and for which an admission fee of ten cents was charged. These entertainments formed a prominent part in the social life of the town, and the proceeds were sufficient for the purchase of a school bell, the first bell in Beatrice, and the first that many of the younger citizens had ever heard. For years it called the children, and children's children to school, — until it was cracked in celebrating some high-school victory.

The following year the family moved on a tract of land purchased, near the headwaters of Bear creek, thirteen miles from Beatrice, where they had their quota of pioneer experience and hardships. Mrs. Fuller, a small, gentle, little woman, shared in the pioneer experiences in Gage county, and she has many interesting reminiscenses concerning the earlier period of the county's history.

Developing a new farm is never easy. The first year grasshoppers "came in a cloud that darkened the sun" and, descending, took every growing thing, breaking down the corn stalks with their weight, and leaving only round holes in the ground where there had been onions. They had laid eggs in the plowed ground and these eventually hatched in time to take the young crop of the second season.

On June 26, 1875, the third year, a disastrous cyclone swept away all the buildings and left hardly one foundation stone upon another, the members of the family barely escaping with their lives. Fleeing to the refuge of the cellar when the storm struck, Mrs. Fuller, with the youngest child in her arms, was instantly precipitated to the bottom of the cellar, clad only in night clothes, unprotected in a cold, pouring rain, and with home and possessions scattered like chaff by the winds. Mr. Fuller's older child fared not so well, being caught up with the house and nearly killed amidst the falling timbers. Lilia, with one fair braid of hair torn out, bleeding from an ugly three-cornered gash in her leg and stunned by a blow on the temple, was dropped unconscious on the brink of a deep-dug well from which the covering had been blown away. The father, bruised, skinned, with back injured and two ribs broken, managed to crawl through the storm and darkness a half mile to neighbors for assistance.

But from these same acres a fine farm was developed, and in time more acres were added to this farm property, which valuable estate is still in possession of the family. Mr. Fuller succeeded in having a "Star Route" postoffice established, and gave the name Hanover to the postoffice and township in honor of the many German neighbors who had left that part of Germany to become citizens of America. The postoffice was for some years at the Fuller residence. One of the first orchards in this section was planted at a time when many families believed "fruit would not grow in Nebraska" and in due time abundant crops as high as fourteen hundred bushels, afforded convincing proof that fruit could be raised.

After the storm that had wrought havoc, as noted in a preceding paragraph, Mr. Fuller built another house on the same spot, mostly with his own hands, using many bits of broken

lumber from the demolished house and reconstructing the furniture from splintered fragments and native black walnut trees uprooted by the tornado. Naturally he and his wife were discouraged, and Mr. Fuller offered his two cows (all they had) to anyone who would bring a purchaser for his farm at the very modest price that he would be glad to get, but no purchaser could be found. On this homestead he and his family resided until, in 1888, they moved to Beatrice to educate the children. At this time the present home on Lincoln street was built and here Mr. Fuller lived continuously, giving a general supervision to his farm property and business affairs, until his death, November 12, 1905, of valvular heart trouble. He was seventy-four years of age at the time of his death and is survived by his widow and two daughters, Julia and Mary. The oldest daughter, Lilia, having died at the age of ten years. The family are found active in promoting the intellectual, civic and religious interests of the community, have taken part in encouraging the Young Woman's Christian Association and welfare work and are identified with all patriotic and philanthropic movements. Julia has been an officer in local and state woman's clubs and is chairman of Woman's Council of Defense in Gage county under the war conditions existing in 1918. Mary has been deeply interested in welfare and reform work and has the distinction of introducing probation work and being the first probation officer sewing for the volunteers. From 1915 to 1917 she served as chief probation officer of the county.

Of all that implies strong and noble manhood Mr. Fuller stood exemplar, and he was well qualified for leadership in public sentiment and action. He bore his share of the tension incidental to pioneer life in Gage county, was vitally loyal to the best interests of the community. He was an able advocate of the principles of the Republican party, was active in public affairs in Gage county, and he represented, with characteristic ability, this county in the twentieth general assembly of the Nebraska legislature, in 1887. His well worn volumes of classics and both modern and ancient Latin and Greek testify to his literary tastes, and he was keenly interested in the latest scientific and political news of the day, watching the trend of modern thought always, with keen eye to future developments. He was a man who thought and studied, who read widely and discriminatingly, and who fortified himself thoroughly in his convictions. He had deep reverence for the spiritual verities of the Christian religion, but was not formally identified with any church organization. He was always keenly alive to all questions of civic interest, fearless in espousing what he believed right, and convincing in saying what he thought. Of him a fellow townsman wrote: "He was rugged in his honesty and as unbending in his integrity as the rocks that guard the coast of his native state. He early learned those rules of honesty, thrift and frugality that led him to deal as squarely with others as he desired them to deal with him. He more nearly represented the genuine typical New Englander that laid the foundations of state and nation than any other man who ever lived in our midst."

CLARENCE S. WARREN.—A well known, influential, and popular citizen of Beatrice, Mr. Warren has been a resident of Nebraska since he was a lad of fourteen years and in his initiative energy and business activities he has kept pace with the vital march of progress in this favored commonwealth, where his capitalistic and real-estate interests are now large and important. He gives the major part of his time and attention to the management of the large estate left by his honored father and to that which he has accumulated through his own effective operations. Mr. Warren became a prominent exponent of live-stock industry and did much to raise the grade of stock raised in this state, his attitude being essentially that of a broad-gauged, liberal and progressive citizen and in the management of his valuable real-estate holdings in Gage county he is contributing much to the civic and industrial prosperity of the county, his status as a citizen and man of affairs being such as to make specially consistent the recog-

nition accorded to him in this history of Gage county and the state of Nebraska.

Mr. Warren was born on his father's old homestead farm near Minonk, Woodford county, Illinois, and the date of his nativity was August 21, 1872. He is a son of John and Mary (Arrowsmith) Warren, both representatives of sterling pioneer families of Illinois, in which state their marriage was solemnized, both having been natives of England. John Warren was born at Barnstable, England, in 1840, and he bore the full patronymic of his father, John Warren, who came with his family from England and settled in Illinois prior to the Civil war, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives in that state, where he gave his attention to farming until his death, as did also George Arrowsmith, who likewise came from England and became a farmer in Illinois a number of years before the Civil war, the latter having been the maternal grandfather of the subject of this review and having reared a family of ten children; both he and his wife remained in Illinois until their death. Mrs. Mary (Arrowsmith) Warren was still comparatively a young woman at the time of her death, which occurred in Woodford county, Illinois, on the 11th of November, 1879, her birth having occurred in Devonshire, England, in 1843. Of the three children of John and Mary (Arrowsmith) Warren one died in infancy and Florence A. died at the age of twenty-three years, in 1891, at Beatrice, Nebraska, so that the only survivor is the subject of this review. The father eventually contracted a second marriage, by his union with Miss Lena F. Huntling, who survives him and resides in Omaha, Nebraska, the two children of this marriage being Myrtle and Frank, both residents of the city of Omaha.

John Warren, father of him whose name initiates this sketch, was reared and educated in England and was about twenty years of age when he accompanied his father to America and became a resident of Illinois, in 1860. Through his active association with agricultural industry in that state he laid the foundation of his worthy success as a man of affairs, and entirely through his own ability and efforts he accumulated a large and valuable estate. His self-reliance was on a parity with his ambition, and this was clearly demonstrated when he purchased an entire section of land in Woodford county, Illinois, at a time when his capitalistic resources were repsented almost entirely in determination, ambition, and sturdy integrity of purpose. He borrowed the money with which to make payment on the land and paid ten per cent. interest on the same. Such an indomitable personality could not remain inert or obscure, and the genius of success was an intrinsic element of his makeup, as fully attested by the large and worthy achievement that was his during the years of a significantly active and productive career. Mr. Warren coupled his agricultural activities with the buying and shipping of grain and as early as 1878 he came to Nebraska and purchased a tract of land in Gage county. However, he thereafter continued his residence in Woodford county, Illinois, until 1886, when he came with his family to Gage county and established a home in Beatrice, where he passed the residue of his life and where his death occurred on the 15th of February, 1908. Mr. Warren played a sturdy part in connection with the development and progress of this section of the state, along both civic and industrial lines, and at the time of his demise he was the owner of six sections of land — nearly all in Gage county. He was indefatigable in making improvements upon his various farm properties and in bringing them up to the best modern standard of productivity, the while he made his influence definitely helpful in the furtherance of measures and enterprises advanced for the general good of the community, his political allegiance having been given to the Democratic party, though he had no desire for public office, and his religious faith having been that of the Christian church: his first wife was an earnest member of the Baptist church. John Warren gave to the world assurance of strong and worthy manhood and showed his stewardship in fruitful achievement along the normal lines of enterprise in which he directed

his splendid energies. He commanded at all times the confidence and esteem of his fellow men and was one of the honored and influential citizens of Gage county at the time of his demise.

Clarence S. Warren acquired his early education in the public schools of Illinois and continued his studies in the city schools of Beatrice, Nebraska, where the family home was established when he was about fourteen years of age. For a number of years thereafter he assisted in the work of his father's farm properties, and in the meanwhile he developed the admirable initiative and executive ability that has been exemplified so potently in the later stages of his career. As a youth Mr. Warren had a measure of experience as a bookkeeper and clerk at Beatrice, but in 1892 he went to southwestern Nebraska and started an extensive stock ranch. There he adopted the most progressive policies in the raising of thoroughbred cattle and Poland-China hogs, and he developed a prosperous enterprise in this important field. Incidental to his operations he purchased an entire section of land, in Jefferson county, and of this property he is still the owner. From his well improved ranch he made regular shipments of live stock to Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri, and he continued his active regulation of the business for nine years. He then returned to Beatrice, to assist in the management of his father's business, and since the death of his father he has had virtually the sole management of the large family estate.

Though distinctively loyal and public-spirited in his civic attitude and taking a lively interest in public affairs, Mr. Warren has had no desire to enter the arena of practical politics and is not constrained by partisan lines, as he prefers to give his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, irrespective of political affiliations involved. In 1907 Mr. Warren erected his attractive residence, at 806 North Ninth street, and this is not only one of the finest homes in Beatrice but is also known as a center of gracious hospitality. Mr. Warren is affiliated with both York and Scottish Rite bodies of the Masonic fraternity, in the former of which his maximum alliance is with Mount Herman Commandery of Knights Templars, and he is affiliated also with the adjunct Masonic organization, the Mystic Shrine, as well as with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

In the year 1895 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Warren to Miss Gertrude C. Tipton, who was born at Glenwood, Iowa, and the three children of this union are John C., Maxwell S., and Clifford E., the two younger sons being students in the public schools of Beatrice at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, and the eldest son, John C., being numbered among the patriotic young men preparing for active service with the American forces in the great European war: at the time of the preparation of this article he is stationed at Deming, New Mexico, as a member of the medical corps of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth United States Infantry.

SAMUEL LEONARD PYLE is one of the honored pioneers and successful farmers of Paddock township. He is a native of New Jersey and was born January 9, 1839. His father, Samuel Leonard Pyle, likewise was born in New Jersey, and in 1845 he sought a home in what was then considered the far west. In Lee county, Illinois, he secured a homestead. He became one of the substantial farmers of that county and there he passed away at the age of eighty-two years. He married Emeline Moffit, a native of New Jersey, and she was seventy-six years of age at the time of her death, which occurred in Illinois.

Samuel Leonard Pyle, the subject of this record, was a lad of seven summers when the family home was established in Illinois, and he was there reared to the sturdy discipline of a pioneer farm, his time being divided between study in the district school and the tasks on the farm.

In 1860, when twenty-one years of age, he drove a herd of cows across the plains in

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL L. PYLE

company with some other young men, and finally went to Denver, Colorado. Young Pyle spent two years in the mountains and then returned to Illinois. In 1865 he went to Rock Island county, that state, and engaged in farming, remaining there until the fall of 1879, when he came to Nebraska and filed on eighty acres of land in Paddock township, Gage county. This land had only recently been opened for settlement, having previously been in possession of the Otoe Indians. In the spring of 1880 Mr. Pyle brought his wife to the new country. Their first home was an upright board shanty, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, and in this they lived for several years. They were in very moderate financial circumstances. Their first cow, bought after they arrived in Gage county, was staked out with a lariat, before any fences had been built.

Mr. Pyle devoted his energies to improving and cultivating the land, and in due time was reaping golden harvests for the intelligent labor bestowed upon the fields. Later he was able to add to his possessions another eighty acres, and to-day the farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 1. The improvements on this farm are first-class, consisting of two residence and good outbuildings. Mr. Pyle has now laid aside the more active work, placing the mantle upon the shoulders of his son, who operates the place in his own interests.

On December 25, 1864, Mr. Pyle was united in marriage to Miss Cornelia Williamson, who was born in the state of New York, her natal day having been January 10, 1846. Her parents, Jacob and Sophia (Ray) Williamson, were likewise natives of the Empire state, and were among the early settlers in Lee county, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Pyle was blessed with three children: Franklin died at the age of four years; Cora is the wife of Charles Miller, a farmer in Sicily township; and Edwin, who married Cora Fye, operates the old home farm: he and his wife have a winsome little daughter, Mildred.

Mr. and Mrs. Pyle have seen this region transformed from wild, unbroken prairie into beautiful farms, dotted with innumerable homes, with here and there thriving villages. Wymore was not in existence when they came, and they saw that hustling town when the streets were in the cornfields. By careful management and unceasing energy in these thirty-eight years this worthy pioneer couple justly deserve the reward that permits them to spend their declining years in ease and comfort. They have both passed the psalmist's allotted three score and ten years, and both are still hale and hearty, provided with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life, and enjoying the just returns from intelligently directed effort in the years that have passed.

HARVEY W. GIDDINGS, whose death occurred at his attractive farm home in Midland township, was a pioneer citizen of Nebraska and was a man whose fine qualities of mind and heart caused him to view with exceptional equanimity financial reverses and other adverse conditions and to find in the same but a spur to renewed and more vigorous effort. He left a deep impress upon the history of farm enterprise in Gage county, here achieved large and worthy success and here held his direct and upright course in such a way as to merit and received the unqualified esteem of his fellow men.

The eldest in a family of eleven children, nine of whom attained to adult age, Harvey W. Giddings was born in McKean township, Erie county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1830, and was a son of John W. and Hannah (Stafford) Giddings, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of the state of New York. The lineage of the Giddings family traces back to the staunchest of Scottish origin and the founder of the American line was the great-grandfather of the subject of this memoir, he having come to America when a young man. The Stafford family is of English origin. In 1840 John W. Giddings removed with his family to Illinois and became a pioneer settler in Warren county, where he

became a prosperous farmer, his death occurring in 1881, when he was seventy-seven years of age, and his widow having passed away in 1885, at the age of seventy-six years. Harvey W. Giddings, with an exceptionally receptive mind, made the best possible use of the advantages of the common schools of Illinois, and it is a matter of record that he was but four years old when he began to attend school in Pennsylvania, he having been about ten years of age at the time of the family removal to Illinois. He remained at the parental home and assisted in the work of the farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-five years. He then returned to Pennsylvania and wedded Miss Rebecca E. McClure, who had been one of his childhood schoolmates. She was born in Pennsylvania, October 16, 1836, a daughter of George W. and Elizabeth (Shirer) McClue, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Holland, the closing years of their lives having been passed in Illinois, where they established their home in 1865. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Giddings established themselves in the pleasant home which he had provided for their use, and with the passing years he accumulated in Illinois a valuable landed estate of nine thousand acres. His faith in others led to his assuming for them heavy financial responsibility, and on account of being compelled to pay these large obligations for others he became virtually bankrupt. Under these depressing conditions Mr. Giddings girded himself anew and with characteristic courage prepared to retrieve his fortunes. In the spring of 1874 he came with his family to Nebraska and rented land in Buffalo county. His first crop was destroyed by grasshoppers and the outlook would have brought utmost discouragement to the average man. This sturdy pioneer, however, was not to be baffled, and finally, in 1876, he came to Gage county, where he operated for a time on leased land. He then established himself on a ranch of twelve hundred acres owned by the Kansas & Missouri Stage Company, and here he broke and placed under cultivation more than four hundred acres, all of which he fenced with wire. Unequivocal prosperity attended his energetic activities and he remained on this ranch six years. In the meanwhile, in 1879, he purchased two hundred and forty acres, in Midland township, and to the same he removed with his family in 1882. He developed this into one of the model farms of the county, and extended his operations by the leasing of additional land. He thus utilized six hundred acres, and his activities were carried on with discrimination and good judgment, he having been a large grower of the various cereals, as well as flax, having conducted a substantial dairying business and having raised cattle on a large scale. He was a leader in the promotion of effective farm enterprise in this section of the state, and was the staunch and loyal supporter of education, of churches and of all other things making for civic wellbeing, his political allegiance having been given to the Republican party and his wife having held to the faith of the Presbyterian church. They became the parents of ten children: Flora E. died March 3, 1883; Carrie, on the 22d of April, 1882; Edwin on the 16th of November, 1884; and Carl and Rebecca E. likewise are deceased; Jennie is the wife of James Kerr, a retired farmer residing in the city of Denver, Colorado; S. E. is individually mentioned on other pages of this history; Harry is a farmer one mile east of Beatrice; Susie is the wife of A. C. Calhoun, of McCook, this state; and Ralph is associated with banking business at Missoula, Montana.

JACOB A. KLEIN. — Both as a representative business man and loyal and progressive citizen is Mr. Klein well upholding the prestige of a name that has been long and significantly honored in Gage county, and he is vice-president of Klein's Mercantile Company, which conducts, in his native city of Beatrice, one of the leading department stores in this section of Nebraska. Of his father specific mention is made on other pages of this publication, and in that connection is given adequate review also of the business conducted under the corporate title noted.

Mr. Klein was born at Beatrice, this county,

on the 13th of August, 1873, and is the eldest of the three sons of Jacob Klein, who is still the executive head of the Klein's Mercantile Company. Mr. Klein profited fully by the advantages afforded in the excellent public schools of Beatrice and as a youth began to assist in his father's store. He has literally grown up in the business and has matured his discrimination and administrative ability as a merchant, with the result that he exercises large influence in the conducting and directing of the large and thriving mercantile business with which he has been identified during the entire course of his active career. He has been vice-president of Klein's Mercantile Company from the time of its incorporation, in 1901.

The local ranks of the Democratic party find Mr. Klein aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause for which the now dominant party stands sponsor, and he has been active and influential in the furtherance of the party cause. Recognition of this fact has been officially shown by his being retained as a colonel on the military staff of Governor Moorhead and later on that of Governor Neville. He is an appreciative and popular member of the Beatrice Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, under the influences of which he was reared, and his wife is an active member of the Presbyterian church: they are leaders in the social activities of the city of Beatrice and delight in extending to their many friends the hospitality of their pleasant home. The year 1905 recorded the marriage of Mr. Klein to Miss Myrtle Grimes, who was born at Holton, Kansas, and who is a daughter of J. A. Grimes, she having been about twenty-two years of age at the time of the family removal to Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs Klein have two children — Alan, who was born in the year 1906, and Jean, who was born in 1915.

LUDWIG MOSCHEL, who came to Gage county in 1875 and who here won substantial success through his vigorous association with farm enterprise, passed the closing years of his life in the city of Beatrice, where he died in 1915 and where his widow still maintains her home. He was a man of strong mind, of determined purpose and of untiring industry, a citizen of sterling worth and one who commanded unqualified popular esteem.

Mr. Moschel was born at Webensheim, Bavaria, Germany, on the 12th of November, 1843, a son of Christian and Margaret (Schantz) Moschel. He received in his native land excellent educational advantages and was an ambitious youth of seventeen years when he came to America and established his residence in Illinois. There, in the year 1869, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Catherine Klein, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 24, 1849, and who was a girl at the time when she came with her parents to the United States, the family home being established in Illinois: she is a sister of Jacob Klein, of whom definite mention is made on other pages, with adequate incidental record concerning the family. The father of Mr. Moschel was a cabinetmaker by trade and passed his entire life in Germany. In 1860 the widowed mother came with her seven children to the United States and settlement was made on a farm a few miles distant from Peoria, Illinois, in which state she passed the remainder of her life.

After his marriage Mr. Moschel continued his association with farm activities in Illinois until 1875, when he came with his family to Gage county. He had sufficient money to make partial payment on a farm of eighty acres, three miles north of Beatrice, and his industry and good management brought to him gratifying success in the years that followed. He accumulated and improved a fine farm estate of three hundred and twenty acres and continued as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of Midland township until 1907, when he retired and established his home in Beatrice, where his death occurred eight years later. He took loyal interest in community affairs, was a Democrat in politics and while residing on his farm he served as a member of the school board. His religious faith was that of the Lutheran church, of which his widow likewise is a devoted communicant.

In conclusion of this memoir is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Moschel: Lena is the wife of Emory Ellis and they reside on the old homestead farm of her father; August L. is a carpenter by trade and is engaged in contracting and building operations in the city of Beatrice; Catherine remains with her widowed mother; Albert C. resides in the city of Lincoln and is a traveling commercial salesman; Emma remains with her mother; Bertha L. is the wife of Albert Pretzer, residing three miles north of Beatrice; Ida is the wife of August Pretzer, a prosperous farmer in Midland township; and Lizzie L. died in 1881, at the age of eight years.

DAVID G. GRIFFITHS, M. D., the efficient and honored superintendent of the Nebraska Institution for Feeble Minded Youth, at Beatrice, is a representative of one of the well known pioneer families of Richardson county, this state, where he was born November 27, 1875, a son of David and Mary Ellen (Young) Griffiths, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, in 1845, and the latter in Wisconsin, in 1851. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Wisconsin, and in 1869 they established their home in the new state of Nebraska, Mr. Griffiths having previously visited the state and having obtained a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Richardson county. To this he gradually added until he had accumulated and improved a valuable landed estate of four hundred acres, which he still owns. About a decade ago he retired from his farm and he and his wife have since maintained their home in the village of Verdon, Richardson county. They made the journey from Wisconsin to Nebraska with team and covered wagon and by his energy and good management he here achieved large and worthy success. David Griffiths was a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, and was wounded severely in the right shoulder, the injury having been such as permanently to cripple his right arm. Of the six children four are living: Daniel is a farmer near Verdon, Richardson county; David G., of this review, is the next younger son; Edward is a successful exponent of farm industry near Verdon; and Florence is the wife of William H. Henderson, a farmer in the same locality. The parents are active members of the Congregational church. David Griffiths holds affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic, and in politics he is a staunch Republican. While on his farm he served in various township offices. His father, Daniel Griffiths, was born in Wales and came to the United States in the early '40s, first settling in Pennsylvania and finally removing with his family to Wisconsin, where he passed the remainder of his life.

Dr. David G. Griffiths was afforded in his youth excellent educational advantages, and after having been a student in the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru he entered the medical department of the University of Nebraska, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1902. After thus receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine he engaged in the practice of his profession at Verdon, in his native county. Three years later he removed to Falls City, and after having there been engaged in practice about eighteen months he went to the city of Lincoln, which constituted the stage of his successful professional activities until 1913. In the year last mentioned he became pathologist at the Nebraska State Hospital for the Insane, and this position he retained until February 1, 1916, when he assumed his present responsible and exacting office, that of superintendent of the Nebraska Institution for Feeble Minded Youth. The Doctor has given close study to the care and uplifting of the unfortunate wards of this admirable institution, the number of inmates being about six hundred, and his effective administration is fully justifying his appointment to the position.

In 1902 was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Griffiths to Miss Nora Moore, who was born in Kansas, a daughter of John and Katie (Eby) Moore, who now reside at Wymore, Gage county, Nebraska, Mr. Moore being a locomotive engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Dr. and Mrs. Grif-

fiths have but one child, Heath, who was born in 1903, and who is attending the Beatrice schools.

Dr. Griffiths is a valued member of the Gage County Medical Society and the Nebraska State Medical Society, besides being actively identified with the American Medical Association. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church.

JOHN E. KING. — A worthy native son of Gage county is John Edward King, who is operating one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sherman township.

Mr. King was born on his father's farm in Filley township, December 29, 1884, a son of Charles W. King, deceased, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. John E. King was reared on a farm and learned the best methods of tilling the soil, planting and harvesting crops, which enables him to-day to make a success of his chosen calling.

Mr. King was united in marriage, July 4, 1914, to Miss Georgia Starns, a native of Indiana, a daughter of Elijah Starns, of Hamburg, Iowa. They are a worthy young couple, who have a host of friends in Gage county.

GEORGE E. ZIMMERMAN. — Hanover township well merits its name, for within its borders are to be found many influential citizens who were born in the beautiful province of Hanover, Germany, and who have done much in furthering the civic and industrial development and progress of Gage county. Among the representative farmers of the township who can claim this ancestral and personal distinction is Mr. Zimmerman, who was born in Hanover, Germany, March 17, 1856, a son of Riender R. and Johanna (Bless) Zimmerman, who came with their family to America in 1876 and settled in Champaign county, Illinois. There the father farmed on rented land until 1879, when he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land, in Hanover township, and after erecting a substantial barn on the place he equipped the building as a temporary residence for his family. About three years later he built a good house on his farm. There he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, as honored pioneer citizens, and both were earnest communicants of the German Lutheran church. Of their five children the subject of this review is the eldest of the four surviving; Etta is the wife of John Jobman, a retired farmer residing in the city of Beatrice; Lizzie, who resides in the village of Pickrell, this county, is the widow of John Meints; and Riender is a prosperous farmer five miles east of Beatrice.

George E. Zimmerman acquired his youthful education in the excellent schools of his native land and was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States. For a period of about eighteen months he was employed in the railroad shops at Galesburg, Illinois, and he then became associated with the tending of horses at Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1879 he came with his parents to Gage county, where he assisted in reclaiming and improving his father's farm and where he finally purchased eighty acres of land from his father, in Hanover township. Of the success that has attended his well ordered activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower no further evidence is needed than the fact that he is now the owner of a well improved and valuable farm estate of four hundred acres — all in this county. On his homestead farm he erected his present commodious and modern house and other buildings of the best type, and he is one of the substantial citizens of Hanover township.

The year 1880 recorded the marriage of Mr. Zimmerman to Miss Rixte DeBuhr, who likewise is a native of Hanover, Germany, and of their six children five are living: Johanna is the wife of George Idines, a prosperous farmer of Logan township; Jennie is the wife of William Remmers, who is a farmer in Hanover township; Etta is the wife of Harm

Idines, a farmer in Hanover township; Menne is engaged in farm enterprise five miles east of the village of Pickrell; and Lizzie is the wife of Arnold Behr, a farmer seven miles east of Beatrice.

Mr. Zimmerman is a man whose mental and moral qualities well fortify him for leadership in community affairs, and he is one of the honored and influential citizens of Hanover township. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and he is serving as justice of the peace, as well as chairman of the official board of Hanover township. He and his wife are zealous communicants of the Zion's German Lutheran church of Hanover, the strongest and wealthiest church organization in Gage county.

FRED F. VAN BOSKIRK, a progressive farmer and stock-grower of Midland township, has an attractive homestead of one hundred and sixty acres — the northeast quarter of Section 8. He was born at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 15, 1881, a son of Lincoln and Celia (Freer) Van Boskirk, of whose four children he is the youngest; Mae is the wife of C. R. Munford, who is individually mentioned in this history; Daisie is the wife of Curtis C. LaForge, of Midland township; and Frank O. is another of the prosperous farmers of this township.

Lincoln Van Boskirk was born in Pennsylvania, January 15, 1826, and his death occurred July 15, 1905. He was a pioneer of the state of Iowa and there operated sales stables first in Cedar Rapids and later at Iowa City, giving much attention to buying horses for the government and also dealing somewhat extensively in mules. In 1885 he came with his family to Gage county and here he traded horses for a section of land in Midland township, the property having been unimproved. He developed a fine farm property and the present homestead of his son Fred, of this review, is a part of the same. Mrs. Celia (Freer) Van Boskirk was born in Ashland, Ohio, April 18, 1849, and passed to the life eternal on the 2d of August, 1910.

Fred F. Van Boskirk was about four years old at the time of the family removal to Gage county, where he was reared on the pioneer farm of his father and duly availed himself of the advantages of the public schools. He was, however, only thirteen years old when he began to assert his youthful independence and provide for himself. He traveled about and for four years he was employed in a meat-packing plant in Kansas City, Missouri. His father then gave to him his present farm, upon which he has erected a modern house and made other good improvements, and he is alert and progressive in his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower, in which latter department he gives special attention to the raising of Hereford cattle. He is independent in politics and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church.

August 25, 1905, recorded the marriage of Mr. Van Boskirk to Miss Ella Dole, who was born at Milford, Seward county, Nebraska, a daughter of Josiah and Sophia (Hooker) Dole, the family being definitely represented on other pages of this publication. Mr. and Mrs. Van Boskirk became the parents of five children, all of whom are living except Ruth, the firstborn; Lauretta, Katharine, Venita, and Harold lend joy to the pleasant home.

Mr. Van Boskirk is a successful breeder of fine Belgian draft horses, as well as trotting and saddle horses and mules, his boyhood experience having been such as to give him special predilection for enterprise along this line. In the early frontier days his father was a freighter from Iowa to Colorado. This sterling pioneer received deed to his land in Midland township from President Andrew Jackson, and he was one of the venerable pioneer citizens of Gage county at the time of his death.

EILERT D. CRAMER. — When, in 1888, Mr. Cramer arrived in Gage county, as an ambitious and determined youth of eighteen years, his financial resources were represented in the sum of one dollar. He came to this county soon after his immigration from Germany and that he has wrought wisely and well in the intervening years needs no further

voucher than the statement that he is now the owner of a well improved farm estate of two hundred and forty acres, in Section 16, Hanover township. Like so large a percentage of the representative citizens of this township, Mr. Cramer was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, the date of his nativity having been August 1, 1870. His parents, Dick E. and Ahlke (Gerdes) Cramer, are now venerable in years and still reside in their native land, representatives of old and honored families of the province of Hanover and both earnest members of the German Lutheran church. Of their eight children five are living and the eldest is Henry, who remains in Germany; Etta is the wife of John Bruns, a successful farmer of Hanover township, Gage county; the subject of this sketch was the next in order of birth; Helena and Anna remain with their parents, in Germany.

Eilert D. Cramer acquired his education in the excellent schools of his native land and in 1888 he came to America and established his residence in Gage county, as previously noted. For the ensuing four years he was employed at farm work. He carefully saved his earnings and in 1899 he made his first purchase of land — eighty acres, in Hanover township. In the following year he established his home on this farm, which he brought under effective cultivation, and later he sold the property and bought his present fine homestead farm, to which he has gradually added until he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres, the same being well improved and the attractive modern residence on the place having been completed in 1917. Mr. Cramer gives special attention to the raising of live stock, but gains the best of returns also in the agricultural department of his farm enterprise.

April 5, 1894, recorded the marriage of Mr. Cramer to Miss Hannah Alberts, who was born in Brown county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Trintje (Gronewold) Alberts, who came to America about 1873, shortly after the close of the Franco-Prussian war. Benjamin Alberts was a sailor by vocation and followed a seafaring career during the major part of his active career. Upon coming to the United States he first settled in Brown, county, Illinois, where the family home was continued eight years. With team and wagon the overland journey to Nebraska was then made and the family located on a rented form in Gage county, the sons assuming active charge of the work, as the father had little experience in farm enterprise. Benjamin Alberts died in 1888 and his widow survived him by a quarter of a century, her death occurring in June, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer became the parents of six children, of whom five are living and all of whom remain at the parental home — Helen, Richard, John, Christina, and Edwin.

Mr. Cramer has been fully appreciative of the opportunities and advantages that have been afforded him in Gage county and thus his civic loyalty is of the insistent order. His political support is given to the Republican party and his ability and personal popularity have led to his being called upon to serve in various local offices of public trust, including those of assessor, clerk, and treasurer of Hanover township, as well as census enumerator and as a member of the school board of his district, of which last named office he has been the incumbent for many years.

HERMAN WOLKEN is another of the sterling pioneers who has won large and worthy success in connection with the development of the fine natural resources of Gage county, where he has through his own ability and industry accumulated a valuable farm estate of eight hundred and eighty acres, his attractive homestead place being situated in Section 31, Hooker township and the village of Filley being his postoffice address.

Mr. Wolken was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, on the 10th of October, 1851, and there his parents, Henry and Christina (Bowman) Wolken, passed their entire lives, both having been earnest communicants of the Lutheran church and the father having been a prosperous farmer. Of the six children the eldest is John, who is now a successful farmer in Hanover township, Gage county, as is also Henry; Annie is the wife of John

Freline, of Franklin county, this state; and George and Henry still reside in Germany.

Herman Wolken was reared and educated in his native land and was nineteen years of age when he severed the home ties and came to the United States, in 1871. He passed the ensuing four years in Illinois, and he then, in 1875, came to Gage county, where for two years he farmed on rented land. He then purchased eighty acres of unimproved land, in Hooker township, and this constituted the nucleus around which he has by industry and good management developed his present large and well improved farm estate. His course has been guided and governed by the highest principles and thus his success has been well merited, the while he has equally deserved the unqualified popular esteem reposed in him. He is a staunch Republican in politics and he and his family are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

In Illinois, the year 1873 recorded the marriage of Mr. Wolken to Miss Christina Bowman, who was born in Germany and whose parents came to America and settled in Illinois when she was a girl, her father, Reinhard Bowman, having there become a farmer and having there passed the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Wolken have these children: Henry is a farmer in Hanover township; Annie is the wife of Heye Parde, of that township; Kate is the wife of Mene Buhr, a farmer in the same township.

C. A. HALL has served efficiently as cashier of the Citizens' State Bank in the village of Virginia since 1909 and is a popular scion of one of the sterling pioneer families of southeastern Nebraska. He was born on his father's farm in Pawnee county, this state, and the date of his nativity was December 9, 1878. He is a son of William and Hannah (Manock) Hall, the former of whom was born in Scotland and the latter in England. The father was sixty-four years of age at the time of his death and the mother, who now resides at Roosevelt, Oklahoma, celebrated in 1917 the seventy-second anniversary of her birth.

William Hall was reared and educated in his native land and was a youth when he came to the United States, prior to the outbreak of the Civil war. His juvenile loyalty was such that, at the age of sixteen years, he tendered his services in defense of the nation's integrity, by enlisting as a private in the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which command he proceeded to the front and with which he served about two years, in the meanwhile taking part in numerous engagements of important order. The concussion of a cannon broke the drum of his left ear, and the injury continued to cause him no inconsiderable trouble during the remainder of his life. After the close of the war he returned to Illinois and after his marriage he there continued his residence until he numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he purchased a homestead claim and instituted the development of a farm. A few years later he sold the property and turned his attention to buying and shipping live-stock, at Pawnee City. There he continued his successful operations along this important line of industrial and commercial enterprise for fully a quarter of a century, and he was one of the honored pioneers and valued citizens of Pawnee county. William Hall was a Republican in politics and he and his wife were long numbered among the active members of the Presbyterian church at Pawnee City, he having been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. His brother Andrew was one of the early employes of the Wells-Fargo Express Company and was killed by robbers who made an attempt to take from him a valuable express consignment. William and Hannah (Manock) Hall became the parents of five children: Sadie remains with her widowed mother; W. T. is railroad station agent at Nemaha City, Nebraska; Mamie is the wife of W. L. Laughlin, a farmer in Oklahoma; C. A., of this review, was the next in order of birth; and Zula is the wife of W. L. Griffith, a farmer in Oklahoma.

C. A. Hall continued to attend the public schools until he had completed a course in

the high school at Pawnee and thereafter he learned the trade of telegraphy and became an operator on the line of the Rock Island Railroad. As operator and station agent he continued in the service of the Rock Island Lines about fifteen years, during five and one-half years of which period he was station agent at Virginia. Upon retiring from this position, in 1909, he became associated with the Citizens' State Bank in this village, and he was made cashier of the institution, a position of which he has since continued the incumbent and in which he has done much to further the advancement of the business of the substantial bank, which bases its operations on a capital stock of seventy-five hundred dollars and the deposits of which average about one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Hall is one of the vital and progressive citizens and business men of Virginia, is a Republican in politics and has served as a member of the village board of trustees, as well as township treasurer. He is affiliated with the local organization of the Royal Highlanders.

In 1909 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Hall to Miss Lucille Cripe, who was born and reared in Gage county and who was a daughter of Adam Cripe, one of the substantial farmers of Rockford township. Mrs. Hall passed to eternal rest on the 15th of February, 1916, and is survived by no children.

ALLEN M. DARWIN is one of the most alert and progressive young business men of the village of Virginia, where he leases and conducts the grain elevator and also is the owner of a well ordered automobile garage, in connection with which latter enterprise he is agent for the popular Buick automobile.

Mr. Darwin was born in Wright county, Iowa, April 29, 1883, and is a son of George and Emma (Taylor) Darwin, the former of whom was born in England, about 1856, and the latter of whom was born in Will county, Illinois, in 1860. The death of the father occurred in 1910 and that of the mother in 1912, their marriage having been solemnized at Joliet, Illinois. George Darwin was four years of age when his parents came to the United States and established their home in Illinois, where he was reared and educated, and in Iowa he continued his alliance with farm industry until about 1894, when he came with his family to Gage county and settled on a farm in Filley township. In the following year he engaged in the meat market business in the village of Virginia, where he continued operations along this line for eleven years and where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Of their six children the subject of this review is the eldest; Harry E. is a farmer in Sherman township; May is the wife of Roy Ramsey, who is engaged in business in the city of Beatrice; Vern is a commercial traveler and maintains his home in Sioux City, Iowa; Beatrice is the wife of Glenn C. McKinney, a farmer in Colorado; and Clifford is, in 1918, a student in the high school at Beatrice. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father was a Republican in politics and affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America.

After the family removal to Gage county Allen M. Darwin, then a lad of about eleven years, attended the public schools in the village of Virginia, and thereafter he continued his active association with farming until he was twenty-four years of age. In 1911 he leased the grain elevator at Virginia, and in this connection he has since controlled a substantial business in the handling of grain, besides having developed a prosperous garage and automobile business.

October 5, 1916, recorded the marriage of Mr. Darwin to Miss Lola White, who was born and reared in the city of Beatrice, this county, and who has made their pleasant home a center of gracious hospitality. She is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Darwin is one of the liberal and progressive citizens of Virginia, is, in 1918, serving his second term as a member of the village board of trustees, and is a Republican in his political allegiance. He is affiliated with

the Masonic fraternity, including the commandery of Knights Templars at Beatrice and the temple of the Mystic Shrine in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska.

JOHN W. PARDE, whose death occurred July 18, 1911, after an illness of about one year's duration, was one of the honored citizens and successful farmers of Gage county and was a member of one of the representative pioneer families of Hanover township, his parents, William and Tete Parde, being still residents of this township and being individually mentioned on other pages of this history.

John W. Parde was born in Adams county, Illinois, on the 26th of October, 1868, and was about seventeen years of age when the family came to Gage county, where he was reared to manhood and assisted his father in the reclaiming and improving of the pioneer farm, his early education being acquired in the district schools and the Lutheran parochial schools, he having been confirmed in the Lutheran church when he was a lad of fourteen years and ever afterward having continued an earnest communicant of the same, as is also his widow. When twenty-two years of age Mr. Parde took unto himself a wife and in establishing a home he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Section 22, Hanover township. The place was virtually unimproved and with the passing years he developed the same into one of the fine farm properties of the township, its buildings being of modern order and giving lasting evidence of his thrift and the prosperity he won through vigorous activities as a progressive agriculturist and stock-grower. His wife inherited sixty acres of land in the same township, and he thus developed a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, his widow still remaining on the homestead and giving her personal supervision to its management. Mr. Parde was liberal and public-spirited as a citizen, commanded the high regard of all who knew him, and his political allegiance was given to the Democratic party.

In the year 1894 Mr. Parde married Miss Jennie Ehmen, who was born and reared in this county, and sufficient record concerning her parents is given on other pages, in the sketch dedicated to her brother Henry W. Six children survive Mr. Parde: Teedy is the wife of George Wollman, of Filley township, this county; William married Miss Grace Meints, of Pickrell; Henry, Heye, and John remain with their widowed mother; and Emma is the wife of Ehma Jobman, of Filley township.

ULYSSES G. McPHERON. — Men who adhere to high principles, even to the point of personal sacrifice and loss, have ever made this world progress along the lines that men with less principle and less fortitude would not have dared to follow. Ulysses Grant McPheron is a man of sound religious and economic principles, which he is not afraid to defend publicly or to cast his vote in their favor. In this, special reference is made to Mr. McPheron's convictions relative to the regulation of the liquor traffic, and it is due to men like him, men who have had the courage of their convictions and principles, that the Prohibition party has been born and radical reforms effected in our communal life.

Ulysses G. McPheron was born in Hawkins county, Tennessee, January 16, 1875, and is the son of James M. McPheron, whose record will be found elsewhere in this volume. He was only ten years old when his parents came, in 1885, to Gage county, and his father here engaged in farming operations.

The marriage of Mr. McPheron and Miss Minnie Fry was solemnized February 19, 1899. Mrs. McPheron is a daughter of Christian F. Fry, whose sketch is in this volume. To this marriage were born two sons, Galen Ralph and Earl Gilmore, who are now helping their father on the farm. The mother passed away September 11, 1903. The second marriage of Mr. McPheron was solemnized February 12, 1905, when Miss Augusta Cullen became his wife. She was born August 18, 1871, a daughter of James and Christena Cullen, of whom mention is made on other pages of this work.. Two little daughters

JOHN W. PARDE

have come to bless this home, Lois Christena, and Nola Rachel.

The political views of Ulysses G. McPheron at one time were in favor of the Republican party, but he is now a Prohibitionist and is always ready to cast his vote for the reforms to rid our nation of the liquor traffic. He is a member of the Dunkard church.

BERNHARD H. SIEFKES represents the staunchest of American loyalty and efficiency, though he is the only member of his immediate family to have come to the United States from Germany, in which connection it may consistently be noted that one of his brothers met death, in 1917, on the great battlefields of Europe, while serving as a soldier in the German army, and another brother is held as a prisoner of war in England.

Mr. Siefkes has been a resident of Gage county since 1893, and he is now one of the substantial farmers and popular and influential citizens of Hanover township, his finely improved homestead, of one hundred and sixty acres, being situated in Section 26. Mr. Siefkes was born in Hanover, Germany, December 27, 1875, and is a son of Diedrich and Anna (Deriese) Siefkes, the former of whom died about 1907 and the latter of whom still remains in Germany, the father having been a farmer by vocation. The subject of this sketch acquired his early education in the schools of his native land and was but sixteen years of age when, in 1892, he severed the home ties and bravely set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. In that year he arrived at the home of his uncle, in Franklin county, Nebraska, with his available capital represented in the sum of a single dollar. He worked on his uncle's farm until the following year, when he came to Gage county, took a Scully lease, in Hanover township, and began farm operations in an independent way. Under these conditions he continued his energetic and ambitious activities four years, and he then purchased his present farm, which was at that time improved with a primitive house of two rooms, a barn twelve by sixteen feet in dimensions, and a corncrib. The measure of his vigorous achievement in the intervening years is shown in the thrift that is manifest in all departments of his farm enterprise and also in the excellent buildings which he has erected and which mark his farm as one of model order, his attention being given to diversified agriculture and stock-growing.

In 1898 Mr. Siefkes wedded Miss Ida Ehmen, who was born and reared in this country and is a daughter of William Ehmen, adequate record concerning her parents being given on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Siefkes have eight children — Diedrich, William, Annie, Henry, Ermina, Minnie, Herman, and John, and the religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church.

Entering fully into the spirit of American customs and institutions and speaking the English language like a native of the United States, Mr. Siefkes is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party and is influential in public affairs in Hanover township. In 1914 he was elected representative of the First district on the county board of supervisors, an office of which he was the incumbent three years, and he has served also as a member of the board of township trustees and ten years as assessor for his precinct. Through his own well ordered efforts he has won worthy success and in addition to being the owner of a valuable farm property he is shareholder of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Pickrell.

RICHARD W. GRANT is a leading representative of the architect's profession in southeastern Nebraska and is established in business in the city of Beatrice. He was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, on the 5th of January, 1862, and is a son of John N. and Emma (Batty) Grant. The father was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1822, and his death occurred in 1894. The mother was born in England, in 1827, and was summoned to the life eternal on Christmas day of the year 1911. Of the six children the subject of this review was the second in order of birth and all save one of the number are living — Sarah

is a resident of Seattle, Washington; James E. lives at Wenatchee, that state, where he is engaged in the hotel business; Edwin W., a mining engineer, resides in the city of Portland, Oregon; and Charles E. is engaged in the banking business in the city of Seattle. John N. Grant was a child at the time of his parents' removal from Ohio to Illinois. In the latter state he eventually became a successful contractor and builder, and there he remained until 1869, when he came with his family to the new state of Nebraska and became a pioneer of Gage county. In Hanover township he made entry upon the last remaining homestead in the county, and here he continued his residence until 1875, when he removed from his farm to Beatrice. In the meanwhile, in addition to vigorously furthering the development and improving of his farm, he had continued his activities as a contractor and builder, and along this line he continued operations until 1888, when he retired and removed to Seattle, Washington, where he remained until his death. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party, but he had no ambition for public office.

Richard W. Grant was eight years old when the family home was established on the pioneer farm in Gage county, and in addition to receiving in his youth the advantages of the public schools of Beatrice he pursued higher studies in the University of Illinois. He trained himself most thoroughly in the technical and applicatory work of the architectural profession, of which he has been an exponent during his entire independent career and in which his success has been of unequivocal order. He has been continuously engaged in the practice of his profession in Beatrice since 1889, and he has given special attention to the designing of public buildings, including public schools. Many fine structures of modern architectural design and facilities attest his technical skill and his fidelity as a supervising architect. He has designed and supervised the erection of fully seventy high and grade school buildings — in Nebraska, Kansas, olorado, and South Dakota — and his reputation in his profession has far transcended mere local limitations. Numerous churches, business buildings, and residences in Gage county stand as monuments to the ability of Mr. Grant, and not the least of these is the beautiful edifice of the Hanover Lutheran church, which stands near the site of the little log school house in which he received his early educational discipline, he and his sister having walked a distance of three and one-half miles from their home to attend this primitive institution of learning.

In 1887 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Grant to Miss Ida M. Schell, who was born at Peoria, Illinois, a daughter of Charles L. Schell, her father having been a large property holder and prominent real-estate dealer after coming to Nebraska, in 1876, and having died at Walla Walla, Washington, while on a trip through the west. Mr. and Mrs. Grant have seven children — Mrs. Robert E. Kyle, of Fort Worth, Texas; Mrs. Henry Randall, whose husband is a stock ranchman in Nebraska; Mrs. Rudolph O. Sheldon, of Kansas City, Missouri; Richard S., a pharmacist by profession, resides at Beatrice and now in government military service at Base Hospital No. 49; Rachel remains at the parental home; Joseph N. is a farmer and stockgrower in Gage county; John Harmon is at the parental home and is attending the public schools.

Mr. Grant is found aligned staunchly in the ranks of the Republican party, and he and his wife are active members of the Christian church in their home city. Mr. Grant is the owner of a model farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Riverside township, about two miles southeast of Beatrice, and on this fine rural estate he and his family maintain their home. He here raises full-blood Holstein cattle and Hampshire swine.

LUCIEN L. NOBLE, M. D., a representative physician and surgeon of Gage county, is established in the successful practice of his profession at Holmesville, and his important clientage, disseminated widely through the district about his home city, indicates alike

his technical skill and his personal popularity. The Doctor was born at Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois, August 14, 1871, and is a son of George P. and Sallie A. (Webb) Noble, both natives of Kentucky, where each was born in the year 1828, their marriage having been solemnized at Richmond, Kentucky. In 1861 George P. Noble removed to Illinois, where he became a prosperous farmer and a prominent buyer and shipper of live-stock. There he passed the residue of his life and he was forty-four years of age at the time of his death, in 1872. His widow long survived him and in 1881 she came with her children to Nebraska and established her home at Aurora, Hamilton county, where she was summoned to eternal rest in 1896, at the age of sixty-eight years. Of the seven children four are living — Louisa, who is the wife of Charles Dixon, of Ottawa, Kansas; George, who is a farmer near Aurora, Hamilton county, Nebraska; Isaiah, who is engaged in the meat-market business in Kansas City, Missouri; and Dr. Lucien L., who is the immediate subject of this review. The father was a Democrat in politics before the Civil war, but at that time changed his allegiance to the Republican party. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and served as master of his lodge, both he and his wife having been members of the Christian church.

Dr. Noble was about nine years old at the time of the family removal to Nebraska and in the public schools of Hamilton county he continued his studies until his graduation in the Aurora high school, as a member of the class of 1891. In preparation for his exacting profession he entered Northwestern Medical College, at St. Joseph, Missouri, and from the same he received in 1894 the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His professional novitiate was served at Roseland, Adams county, Nebraska, where he remained four months, and since that time he has been engaged in active general practice at Holmesville, where he has achieved success of unequivocal order. He is an active member of the Gage County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. His political support is given to the Republican party and he takes loyal interest in all things touching the welfare of his home village and county. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and is also a member of the lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks in the city of Beatrice.

In 1895 Dr. Noble wedded Miss Minnie Will, a daughter of the late Frank M. and Eliza A. (Houtz) Will, the former of whom died in 1909 and the latter on the 11th of November, 1917, Mr. Will having been a representative farmer of Gage county. Dr. and Mrs. Noble have three children — Roy, Leslie, and Marie. Roy is, in 1918, a member of the sophomore class in the University of Nebraska, and Leslie is a student in the Beatrice high school.

HENRY JANZEN. — Known and valued as one of the enterprising and representative agriculturists and stock-growers of Gage county, Mr. Janzen is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 33, Blakely township. He was born in western Prussia, on the 1st of February, 1858, and is a son of David and Helena (Thun) Janzen. He was the second in a family of five children, the fifth having died in infancy and the others, David, Jacob, and Herman, being still residents of Prussia, where the parents passed their entire lives.

To the excellent schools of his native land Henry Janzen is indebted for his youthful education and there he continued his alliance with farm enterprise from his boyhood until September 7, 1877, when, owing primarily to the governmental denial of the religious rights of the Mennonites, of which he is a zealous representative, he left the fatherland and set forth on the voyage to the United States, assured of freedom to live in accord with the dictates of his conscience and faith after he had established his home in the democratic nation to which he has since paid the fullest measure of loyalty and appreciation. Mr. Janzen landed in New York City and shortly afterward came to Gage county, where he arrived in 1877. For the first few years he

was here employed at farm work, in the service of Bernard Reimer and Elijah Filley, and his wages averaged from ten to fifteen dollars a month. In 1881 he returned to his native land, where he remained from March until September, and upon coming again to Gage county he here continued to work as a farm employe until 1883, when he not only purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, four miles northwest of Beatrice, but also fortified himself further by taking unto himself the gracious young wife who has proved his faithful helpmeet and companion. He made good improvements on his farm and there continued his activities until 1901, when he sold the property to advantage. For the ensuing two years he farmed on rented land southeast of Beatrice, and he then rented the Hollingwood farm, east of that city, where he continued his productive operations for seven years. He then, in 1910, purchased his present farm, which, under his progressive and able management, he has made one of the model places of Blakely township. He is independent in politics, giving his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, and he and his family are earnest members of the Mennonite church.

On the 29th of March, 1883, Mr. Janzen wedded Miss Magdalene Penner, who was born and reared in Prussia, where her parents passed their entire lives. She came to the United States and established her residence in Gage county in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Janzen became the parents of eight children, of whom two died young; Mary is the wife of Kurt Wiebe, of Saline county; Helena, Henry, Anna, and Gustav remain at the parental home; Agatha is the wife of Henry Franz, their marriage having occurred August 24, 1917; Miss Anna is numbered among the successful and popular teachers in the schools of this county, she being at the time of this writing, in the winter of 1917-1918, in charge of the well ordered school of District 21, in Blakely township. Miss Anna Janzen, an efficient young representative of the pedagogic profession, was born and reared in Gage county and after having profited by the advantages of the district schools she entered the Beatrice high school, in which she was graduated as a member of the class of 1915. Thereafter she effectively fortified herself for her chosen profession by taking a course in the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru. Her initial service as a teacher was given in the autumn of 1913, and her work has been of most excellent order in the various schools that have received her attention, she being at the present time the teacher in her home district.

JOHN B. PARKER. — Though he has passed the allotted span of three-score years and ten, this sterling pioneer of Gage county is vigorously and successfully conducting in the city of Beatrice the leading harness and saddlery establishment of Gage county, and it was his also to have developed in the pioneer era one of the valuable farm properties of the county.

Mr. Parker was born at South Petherton, Somersetshire, England, on the 21st of July, 1843, and is a son of William and Mary Parker, who became the parents of three sons and two daughters, all of whom are now deceased except the subject of this review, who was the youngest son. William Parker was born in the year 1800 and was for many years engaged in the work of his trade, that of shoemaker, at South Petherton, where his death occurred in 1884. His wife, who likewise was born in 1800, was ninety-three years of age at the time of her death, in 1893.

John B. Parker acquired his youthful education in the schools of his native town and he was a lad of fourteen years when he came to America and made his way to Bremer county, Iowa, where he found employment on the pioneer farm of one of his older brothers. There he continued to attend school during the winter terms until he was about twenty years old. In 1861 he went to Wisconsin, where he continued his connection with agricultural industry until 1863, when he joined another of his brothers, Samuel J., at Rochelle, Illinois. There he served under the direction of his brother a thorough apprentice-

ship to the trade of harnessmaker, and eventually he became a partner in the business, this effective fraternal alliance continuing twelve years. Impaired health finally required that Mr. Parker should find less sedentary occupation and in 1878 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Elm township. He returned to Illinois, but in 1879 he removed with his family to the new home in Nebraska. He reclaimed this farm and developed the same into one of the valuable properties of Gage county, his activities as a farmer having there continued until 1885, when he removed to Beatrice and resumed the work of his trade. Here he became associated with his brother Samuel J. in establishing the harness and saddlery business which they conducted until 1888, when he assumed full ownership of the substantial business, which he has since carried on most successfully in an individual way. A skilled artisan at his trade, Mr. Parker gives approval only to high-grade work, and thus the major part of the harness sold in his establishment is there manufactured according to the old-time methods, but with the aid of modern machinery and accessories. The establishment has the largest and most complete stock of harness and saddlery goods in Gage county, and its reputation constitutes a most valuable asset, for here is given fair and square dealing and most efficient service.

A citizen of worth and of distinct public spirit, Mr. Parker has always taken lively interest in local affairs and he is found aligned in the ranks of the Republican party. He served six years as a member of the Beatrice board of education and five years as a member of the city council. He has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church since 1862 and has been at various times an official of the same. He is now the earnest and valued teacher of the senior men's class in the Sunday school of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Beatrice, his wife having given equally effective service as a teacher of a class of senior ladies and being also active in the missionary work of the church.

October 14, 1873, recorded the marriage of Mr. Parker to Miss Mary E. Clute, of Elgin, Illinois. She was born in the central part of the state of New York and is a daughter of Rev. Martin V. and Nancy (Fairbanks) Clute, her father having given many years of consecrated service as a clergyman of the Free Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Parker have three children: Nellie May remains at the parental home; Alice Irene is the wife of Ray W. Weaverling, of Beatrice; and William M. is now a resident of Pryor, Oklahoma.

JOHN G. HERETH. — Thrift and prosperity are clearly shown in the general appearance of the fine farm estate owned and operated by Mr. Hereth, who is the owner of two hundred acres of the admirable land of Gage county, his homestead place, of one hundred and twenty acres, being situated in Section 8, Clatonia township, and the remaining eighty acres in Section 5, that township. He is known as one of the vigorous and substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of the county and is a representative of that fine German element of citizenship that has played important part in the social and industrial development and progress of this section of the state.

Mr. Hereth was born in Bavaria, Germany, January 17, 1867, and is a son of John and Margaret (Lauterbach) Hereth, of whose four children he is the youngest; Margaret is the wife of George Mitzell, of Campbell, Franklin county, this state; Henrietta, who became the wife of Simon Hartmann, is deceased; and Anna is the wife of J. M. Betz, of Lincoln, the fair capital city of Nebraska.

John Hereth, father of the subject of this review, was born in Bavaria, in April, 1840, and there he continued to reside until 1883, when he came with his family to the United States and settled in Clatonia township, Gage county, Nebraska. He became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 12, and after having here been actively engaged in general farm industry for thirteen years he removed to the western part of the state and settled in Red Willow county. After

having there continued his activities as a farmer for a period of seven years he removed to the state of Washington, where he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred at Snohomish, that state, in September, 1900, and his earnest religious faith having been that of the German Lutheran church. After the death of his first wife he wedded Anna Rocholz, prior to coming to America, and she still maintains her home in the state of Washington. Of their union were born nine children, Michael and Martin being residents of Washington; Katherine being the wife of John Hunke, of Lyndon, Osage county, Kansas; Margaret being the wife of John Riechers, who is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; Rena being the wife of George Stocker, a resident of the state of Washington, where Frederick, next in order of birth, also maintains his home; Conrad being a resident of Oregon and George of Washington; and the youngest of the number being Lisette, who is the wife of J. Conrad, of Washington.

John G. Hereth acquired his early education in the excellent schools of his native land and was a youth of seventeen years at the time of the family immigration to the United States. After his arrival in Gage county he worked three years as a farm hand, at a compensation averaging eighteen dollars a month. Thereafter he farmed rented land about five years, and in 1895 he purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty-seven acres near Waverly, Lancaster county. He brought forty acres of this raw prairie land under effective cultivation and erected a house and other buildings on the place, besides setting out trees and making other excellent improvements of a permanent order. In 1902 Mr. Hereth sold this farm and returned to Gage county, where he purchased his present homestead, about the only notworthy improvement on which was a well. He first erected a small house, and this sufficed as the family home until 1904, when he built his present modern and attractive house of eight rooms, besides which he has improved the farm with a barn that is fifty-two by fifty-four feet in dimensions. His progressiveness and good judgment have so come into play as to make his one of the model farms of Clatonia township. In politics he is a staunch Democrat and he served continuously from 1911 to 1917 as assessor of Clatonia township. For the past fourteen years he has been a director of school district No. 47. Both he and his wife are zealous communicants of the German Lutheran church and he is secretary of the church organization of this denomination in his home community. Mr. Hereth is a stockholder of the farmers' co-operative elevator at Clatonia and also that at Wilber, Saline county, from which latter place his home receives service on rural mail route No. 2. He is likewise a stockholder of the German Supply Company, of Lincoln.

On the 17th of April, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hereth to Miss Minnie Heller, who was born in Germany and who came with her parents to the United States in 1888. Mrs. Hereth is a daughter of William and Anna (Britt) Heller, who are now residents of Otterndorf, province of Hanover, Germany, they having returned to their native land in 1901 and Mrs. Hereth being their only child. Mr. Heller became one of the substantial farmers of Clatonia township, Gage county, where he and his wife continued to reside until their return to their fatherland. Mr. and Mrs. Hereth have nine children, all of whom remain at the parential home except the eldest two, — Edwin, who is a successful farmer of Clatonia township and Anna, who is the wife of William Luecders, of Highland township. Those who are members of the ideal home circle are William, Frederick, Benjamin O., Lisette, Amelia, Alice and Loretta, and the parents have taken pride in giving to all of the children excellent educational advantages.

GEORGE M. JOHNSTON. — As manager of the office and sales departments of the well established business of the Dole Floral Company, Mr. Johnston has been a valued factor in the development of this substantial enterprise in the city of Beatrice and takes satisfaction in his association with a concern

that bases its operations upon the best of modern facilities, the company's conservatories and propagating grounds being such as to make possible the rendering of a metropolitan service to patrons.

Mr. Johnston was born in the city of Peoria, Illinois, on the 13th of February, 1876, and was thirteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Gage county, Nebraska, where he was reared to adult age and profited fully by the advantages of the public schools. He has been manager of the Dole Floral Company since 1912, and under his supervision the business has been doubled in volume within the intervening period. He is one of the vital and progressive factors in the business circles of Beatrice and here his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances. Twice each year Mr. Johnston makes extended trips throughout the company's extended trade territory, these trips being mainly for the purpose of personal conference with the various agents of the company and other persons handling products from the extensive Beatrice greenhouses of this progressive business corporation.

In the year 1900 Mr. Johnston wedded Miss Anna Dole, of Beatrice, daughter of J. G. and Sophia H. (Hooker) Dole, and they have one child, Marjorie.

Concerning the Dole family full record is made on other pages, in the sketches of Mrs. Sophia H. Dole and Edward W. Dole, with additional data in the review of the Dole Floral Company.

PHILIP BINDERNAGEL. — The activities of this sterling pioneer citizen of Gage county have been the positive expression of a strong, vigorous and self-reliant personality, and he is one of the resourceful men who came to Nebraska in the territorial epoch of the history of this now favored commonwealth and who numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Gage county, which was virtually on the frontier at the time when he here established his home. He proved himself well equipped for coping with the adverse forces that ever come into evidence in the opening of a new country to civilization and progress. Now venerable in years, Mr. Bindernagel is living retired in the city of Beatrice, but as tangible evidence of the prosperity that has attended his former years of earnest endeavor is his ownership of a valuable landed estate of four hundred and eighty acres in Gage county, the same being situated in Blakely and Lincoln townships, besides which he owns an estate of equal area in Sherman county, Kansas.

Mr. Bindernagel is a representative of that fine element of German citizenship that has played so large and worthy a part in connection with the development and upbuilding of Gage county, and his civic loyalty has ever been on a parity with his deep appreciation of the advantages and opportunities afforded him in the land of his adoption. He was born in Prussia, on the 28th of January, 1838, and thus will have celebrated his eightieth birthday anniversary ere this history is issued from the press. He is a son of Philip and Marie (Friend) Bindernagel, both of whom passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father devoted the major part of his active career to the vocation of butcher. Philip Bindernagel, Sr., was born December 6, 1806, and his death occurred in June, 1844. His wife was born January 6, 1810, and was summoned to the life eternal in September, 1867, both having been devoted members of the Lutheran church. They became the parents of five children and the first two Mrs. Elizabeth Haen and Andrew are deceased; Philip, Jr., of this review, was the third child; and as the younger two, Frederick and Katherline, likewise are deceased, he is now the only one of the children living.

In his native land Mr. Bindernagel duly profited by the advantages of the national schools and there also he served a thorough apprenticeship to the trade of baker, in which he became a skilled workman. In 1857, as an ambitious young man of nineteen years, he removed from his native land to England, where he continued his residence until 1863, and where he gained an excellent command of the English language, so that he had this knowledge as a valuable reinforcement when

he came to the United States. He landed in the port of New York city on the 4th of August, 1863, and for the ensuing three years he was employed at his trade, in the national metropolis. His vital energy then led him to come to the west, the progressive spirit of which section of the Union made special appeal to him. In the year 1866, about one year prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood, Mr. Bindernagel established his residence near Cottonwood Springs, to which locality he proceeded from Nebraska City by means of the plodding ox team and a wagon. He located at Cottonwood Springs where he brought his trade into effective play by associating himself with his cousin, Frederick Kees, in the conducting of a little restaurant and bakery of primitive facilities. Twelve months later — very soon after the admission of Nebraska to the Union — Mr. Bindernagel obtained from the government a homestead of hundred and sixty acres of land near the site of the present village of Filley, Gage county, this original homestead having been in the township that now bears the name of Filley. He utilized an ox team in breaking the virgin prairie, showed his enterprise and good judgment by setting out a goodly number of trees on his claim, and otherwise made good improvements of a permanent order. He continued activities as a farmer and stock-grower on his original homestead until 1873, when he exchanged the property for a farm of 160 acres in Blakely township, four miles west of Beatrice. He judiciously made further investment in Gage county farm property, and, as previously noted in this context he is now the owner of a specially well improved and valuable landed estate of four hundred and eighty acres in this county, besides which he has shown equal progressiveness in improving his large landed property in Sherman county, Kansas. He continued to reside upon his home farm until December 13, 1915, when, about three years after the death of his devoted wife, he removed to the city of Beatrice. Here he has since lived retired from active business, save that he continues to give a general supervision to his extensive real-estate interests and incidental farm enterprise, his eldest daughter presiding over the pleasant home which he has provided at 815 Lincoln street in the capital city of Gage county.

Mr. Bindernagel entered with utmost loyalty into the communal activities making for development and progress after he had established his residence on his original homestead, and in this connection it may be noted that he gave effective assistance in establishing the first school in what is now Filley township and that his lively interest in educational affairs met with such popular appreciation that he was retained for fully thirty-five years as a member of the school board of his district. He assisted also in the organizing of the Lutheran church in Blakely township, of which he and his wife became influential members. While he has had no ambition for political office he has accorded a loyal support to the cause of the Republican party and has taken deep interest in public affairs, especially those of local order.

On the 25th of August, 1872, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bindernagel to Miss Margaret Marschall, who was born in Germany, October 22, 1850, and who was there reared and educated. She came to America in the autumn of 1870, and within less than two years thereafter became the wife of Mr. Bindernagel, to whom she proved a devoted companion and helpmeet during the remainder of her earnest and kindly life. She was called to the life eternal, on the 23d of February, 1913. Of their union were born six children, concerning whom brief record is made in conclusion of this review: Miss Rosa remains with her venerable father and is the popular chatelaine of their pleasant home in the city of Beatrice; Philip A. is one of the representative exponents of farm industry in Blakely township, where he operates one of his father's farms; David is similarly engaged in Lincoln township; Elizabeth is the wife of George Stevens, of Lincoln township; Caroline died August 24, 1909, at the age of twenty-eight years; and Emma is the wife of L. K. Stevens, who has the active charge of the old homestead farm of her father, in Blakely township.

HUGH J. DOBBS, the author of the historical part of this volume, was born in Taney county, state of Missouri, on the 28th day of September, 1849. He is the second son and the second of eleven children born to Fidillo Hunter and Mary Jane Dobbs. His ancestry and family history are set forth with some detail in the biography of his parents which appears elsewhere in this work.

Hugh J. Dobbs attained the rudiments of an education in the first crude schools taught in Beatrice, Blue Springs, and in his home district, in Rockford township. In 1871, after leaving the first Beatrice high school, he obtained a third-grade certificate as a teacher and taught his first school, beginning May 10th of that year, in the Hillman school district, Hooker township, for which he received one hundred dollars and board. In September, 1871, with thirty-five dollars borrowed money, he entered the state normal school at Peru, Nebraska. At the close of the fall term he took charge of the Holmesville district school, and by teaching on Saturday and in vacations he was able to put four months' teaching into three, and return to the normal school at the opening of the spring term. In April, 1873, he took charge of the public schools of Bellevue and taught one term. Thereafter he was able to complete his course of study in the state normal school, from which institution he graduated in June, 1875. In September of that year he took charge of the public schools at Ashland, Nebraska, and he remained at the head of these schools till January 1, 1878, when he accepted a similar position in the public schools of Beatrice. He remained in charge of the Beatrice schools till the close of the school year of 1880. In both the Ashland and the Beatrice schools he was the first to introduce systematic graduation, install a course of study and graduate a class.

In September, 1880, Mr. Dobbs entered the law department of Union College (now University), of Schenectady, New York, this department being located at Albany. He received his degree of Bachelor of Laws from Union College May 27, 1881, and on the 28th day of May was admitted to the bar of the state of New York. On the 11th day of July, 1881, he began the practice of his profession at Beatrice, and he has been continuously and actively engaged in the practice of the law in this city since that date. His practice extends to all the courts of Nebraska and the federal courts. In the thirty-seven years of his practice he has transacted a large volume of legal business, both civil and criminal, and is an able and successful lawyer.

Hugh J. Dobbs always takes an active interest in public affairs. In politics he has always been affiliated with the great national Republican party, to which party he has never wavered in loyalty. In 1884 he was appointed register of the United States government land office at Beatrice, by President Arthur. He took office April 1st of that year and held the same until September 15, 1887, when the Beatrice land district was consolidated with the Lincoln land district, and the records of the old Beatrice-Brownville office removed to Lincoln. In 1888 he was nominated by his party as a candidate for the office of county attorney and was elected by the highest vote of any candidate on the ticket, his majority in the county exceeding that of Benjamin Harrison, candidate for president of the United States. When, in 1893, the Beatrice Free Public Library was established, he was selected as one of the first board of trustees of that important and useful institution and he served in that capacity eighteen years. He was two years president of the board and sixteen years at the head of the book committee, one of the most important committees connected with the library.

Mr. Dobbs has been engaged over a year in the preparation of the History of Gage County. His work has been almost wholly confined to the historical part of this volume. His compensation consists not in the few dollars he receives for his labor, but in the satisfaction of having performed a service of lasting benefit to his day and generation. In common with many, he felt that before the last of the pioneers had passed away the history of Gage county should be written by one who was familiar with it from the beginning to the present time and whose acquaintance was exten-

sive amongst the early settlers. He has fulfilled this duty as forcefully as circumstances would permit. A portrait of Mr. Dobbs appears as frontispiece of this volume.

While attending the state normal school at Peru, the subject of this sketch made the acquaintance of Louisa A. Piper, who also was attending school there. In 1876 and 1877, they taught school together in Ashland, and on Christmas eve, 1877, they became engaged to be married. On the first day of January, 1884, their marriage was solemnized, at Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska, and they have ever since resided in Beatrice. Five children are the fruit of this marriage. They are: Florence M., who lives at home with her parents; Stuart Piper, a graduate of the Beatrice high school and of the literary and law courses of the University of Nebraska, now practicing his profession at Ogden, Utah, where he is district attorney of the judicial district which includes Weber county, where Ogden is located, and three other counties; Edith Evelyn, who is a teacher of history in the public schools of Ogden; Louise Josephine, a student in the state University of Colorado, at Boulder; and Hugh J. Dobbs, Jr., of Colorado University, now serving in an officers' reserve training camp at Presidio, and subject to the call of his country.

THOMAS FRANCIS DOBBS is the sixth son and the ninth child of Fidillo Hunter and Mary Jane Dobbs, whose biographical sketch with family genealogy is found elsewhere in this volume. He was born on the old homestead, in Rockford township, on August 6, 1866. He received the rudiments of an education in the old school house across the road from his father's homestead, and for a while taught district school in the county. Finally he entered the state normal school at Peru, and in this institution he was duly graduated. For three years he was principal of the public schools at Wahoo, and for about the same length of time principal of the public schools at Auburn. He then entered the hardware business at Peru, where he built up a fine trade, but on account of his wife's health he was forced to move to Colorado, where, with the exception of a single year spent in Oregon, he has since made his home. For several years he was engaged in business at Rocky Ford, and was very prosperous. He sold out there and went to Oregon with a view to entering the banking business, but after a year he returned to Colorado and settled at LaSalle, six miles west of Greeley, where he bought the controlling interest in the LaSalle State Bank. He is now president of this bank and is doing a satisfactory banking business.

While attending the state normal school at Peru, he made the acquaintance of Miss Vina Cannon, a classmate, and shortly after their graduation they were married. Two children have been born to them — Herbert, twenty-two years of age, cashier of the State bank of LaSalle, Colorado; and Mary, a student in the conservatory of music at Denver.

Thomas F. Dobbs is the object of the deep fraternal affection of his brothers and sisters. He is without enemies and his friends are legion.

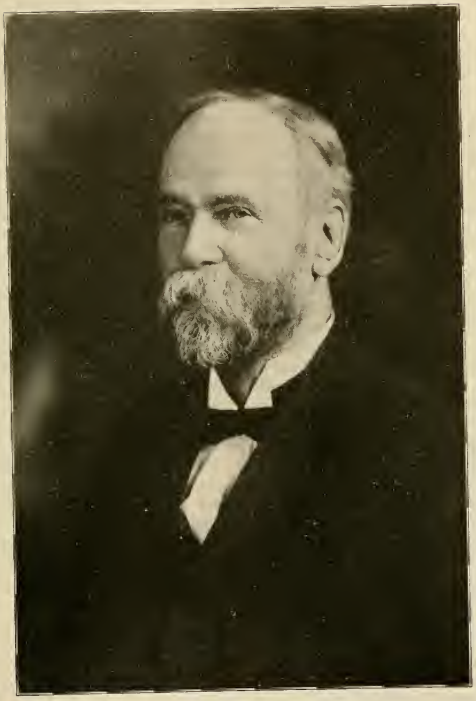
LEANDER M. PEMBERTON. — No man in Gage county is better known or more highly esteemed than Leander M. Pemberton. For nearly two score years he has made his home in the city of Beatrice and he has gained distinction not only in his profession as an able, scholarly lawyer, a legislator and a learned, wise and just judge, but also as a gentleman, a friend and a true and loyal citizen in all the walks of life. He came to Beatrice from Iowa in the fall of 1879 and gained immediate recognition as a careful, discriminating, conscientious lawyer, and until his merits marked him for an exalted judicial position he had been professionally connected with a large volume of important legal business in the courts of the country, federal as well as state. Perhaps no man of his profession while practicing at the bar in Gage county was so often called into cases by other counsel as Judge Pemberton, and no lawyer ever more deserved the confidence of his professional associates. His suc-

cess in life has been gained by sheer force of character, learning and ability of a very high order. It is characteristic of him that he has the power, without conscious effort on his part, of inspiring confidence in the breasts of others, a confidence founded on a belief in his honesty and integrity of character.

To have been well born is always a desirable factor in a human life. While pride of ancestry is not as a rule characteristic of the American citizen, it is but natural, and highly commendable, that one should feel a just pride in the fact that his ancestors were in their day and generation people of consequence, of character and influence. As respects his parents, as well as his more remote ancestry, Judge Pemberton was well born. The family of which he is a scion is of English origin and was founded in America at an early day. John Pemberton, his great-grandfather was a Virginian. In the decisive battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780, where a body of state militia almost annihilated Lieutenant Colonel Ferguson's army of British regulars, and thereby practically destroyed England's power in the southern colonies, he commanded a regiment in Colonel Shelby's regiment of volunteers. At the same time and in his company, under his command, were William King and John Sharp, the former a paternal great-grandfather and the latter a maternal great-grandfather of Judge Pemberton. Thus in one of the most important and decisive battles of the Revolutionary war, we find serving together in one company of volunteers three men who were destined to occupy the same relation as forbears to Judge Leander Munsell Pemberton. Judge Pemberton's paternal grandfather, Stanton Pemberton, also a Virginian, about the year 1804, married Sarah King, a descendant of William King, and in 1831 emigrated from Virginia to Coles county, Illinois. To this marriage there were born eleven children, the third of whom, Harvey Guilford Pemberton, became Judge Pemberton's father. In September, 1832, Harvey Guilford Pemberton returned to Virginia and married Caroline Clarissa King, who was born in Sullivan county, Tennessee, in March, 1811, the tenth child in a family of fourteen children. Her people, who were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, removed from Pennsylvania to Tennessee about the year 1760. Caroline Clarissa Pemberton, the mother of Judge Pemberton, was a woman of character and refinement; though deprived in her youth of all but the most meager educational advantages, she was a lover of good literature and possessed all the graces and virtues of a noble wife and mother. Several of her brothers were college graduates, but the education of a woman was deemed a needless extravagance in those days. She became the mother of nine children, of whom three sons and two daughters reached maturity.

One of these sons, Johnathan Columbus Pemberton was in the militia company that went to the rescue of the settlers in the Spirit Lake massacre, in March, 1857, and his name appears on the fine monument at Lake Okoboji, Iowa, erected by the state of Iowa to the memory of the suffering and heroism of those militiamen. He died in March, 1860, aged twenty-seven years, from a disease caused largely by the hunger and exposure encountered on that expedition. Another son, William J. Pemberton, was an early settler of Beatrice, but he afterward removed to Jefferson county and became a member of the legislature from that county, in the session of 1887. He died suddenly, at Hebron, Nebraska, in November, 1898, aged fifty years. The other son, Leander M. Pemberton, is the subject of this sketch. One daughter, Mrs. Emily C. Ross, died in December, 1881, at Stratford, Iowa, aged forty years; the other daughter, Mrs. Sarah A. Bascom, aged eighty-one years, is still (July, 1918), living, and resides at Spencer, Iowa.

Leander M. Pemberton was born on the 12th day of November, 1845, in a humble log cabin on a farm, near the town of Paris, in Edgar county, Illinois. His early childhood was spent in the place of his birth, but when he was nine years of age his parents, in the fall of 1854, moved to Iowa, and in the spring of 1855 settled in the village of Homer, in what afterward became the county of Hamilton.



LEANDER M. PEMBERTON

Here, on the 4th day of November, 1864, the wife and mother died, at the age of fifty-three years, and within a year her husband also passed away, his death occurring October 31, 1865, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. All that was mortal of this husband and wife lie side by side in the cemetery near Webster City, Iowa.

Judge Pemberton's education began in the primary department of a seminary at Paris, Illinois, when he was seven years of age. On the removal of his parents to Iowa it was continued in the log school house, and later in the one-room, frame school house at the village of Homer, until he attained the age of sixteen, when he left the paternal roof and engaged in the battle of life single-handed and unaided. He journeyed on foot from Homer, in Hamilton county, to Mahaska county, Iowa, where he found employment on a farm near Leredo, doing with his might whatever he found to do, at the munificent wage of forty cents a day. He earned money enough in the farming season to pay his way at Oskaloosa College during the winter of 1862-1863 and the fall of 1863. He then successfully passed an examination for a teacher's certificate and began teaching school. His rise in the world might be described as rapid, since from a wage of twelve and fifteen dollars a month as a farm hand, he was now able to command a salary of twenty-five dollars a month as a country schoolmaster. By working on a farm in the growing seasons of the year and teaching fall and winter schools he managed to obtain enough money to cover his expenses through the sophomore year of the State University of Iowa. Reluctantly abandoning a collegiate course of study, Mr. Pemberton returned to Hamilton county, Iowa and resumed his occupation as a school teacher, studying law diligently, as opportunity afforded, under the direction of Judge D. D. Chase, of Webster City. April 6, 1870, he was admitted to the bar at Boonesboro, Boone county, Iowa, and in June of the same year he began the practice of his profession at the town of Peterson, Clay county, Iowa. At the general election in 1871 he was elected to the office of auditor of Clay county and took up his residence in Spencer, which then became the county seat. By successive elections he held this position six years, practising his profession in the meantime.

During the presidential campaign of 1872 Judge Pemberton directed the editorial policy of the Clay County *News*, advocating the election of Grant and Wilson. In the autumn of 1879 he left Iowa and located in Beatrice.

At the time of his arrival here both the city of Beatrice and the county of Gage were growing by leaps and bounds. The federal census of 1880 credited Beatrice with a population of 2,447 and the county with 13,164 inhabitants. Mr. Pemberton found a hospitable welcome in the community and his success was immediate, both as a lawyer and a citizen. From the first he took an active part in the affairs of the city, and he served six years as city attorney of Beatrice. For twelve years he was a member of the school board and for six years president of that body. He was at one time a member of the educational council of the state. When the free public library was established by the city council, in 1893, Judge Pemberton was selected as a member of the first board of directors and, by continuous reappointment, he has held that position to the present time.

In 1902 Judge Pemberton was elected state senator from Gage county and from the moment of its organization he became a useful, diligent and influential member of that body. Much of the important legislation of that session was due to his wisely directed energies. The legislature undertook to revise the revenue laws of the state and a joint committee of both houses was appointed to draft and report a revenue bill. Judge Pemberton was one of the senate members appointed to serve on this important committee and soon became one of its most influential members. It is largely to his training as a lawyer and his conscientious service as a legislator that the people of this state are indebted for their present complete and efficient revenue law, which is probably the best that can be made under our present constitution.

At the general election of 1907 Judge Pem-

berton was elected one of the judges of the old First judicial district of Nebraska, comprising the counties of Richardson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage and Jefferson. The judicial business of this large district was then transacted by two judges, Hon. John B. Raper, of Pawnee City, who had served two years by appointment, and is still in the service as a judge of the First judicial district, having been elected at the time Judge Pemberton's election occurred. But before the next election of judges was had for the district, it was divided by the legislature and District Eighteen created, consisting of Gage and Jefferson counties. At the general election of 1911 Judge Pemberton was elected judge of the Eighteenth judicial district, and he was re-elected in 1916. His present term will expire January 6, 1921. He has served more than ten years as a judge of this district court, a court which has both appellate and general original jurisdiction. Judge Pemberton is known far and wide as a careful and able trial judge. He commands not only the respect of the lawyers of his district, but is also universally esteemed by all who know him. The judicial ermine was never worn more worthily or its sanctity more carefully guarded.

On the 30th day of April, 1879, at Spencer, Iowa, Judge Pemberton married Miss Ida M. Harris, a lady of amiable disposition and many accomplishments. Her mental faculties were of a high order and she was not afraid to exercise her judgment and follow its conclusions. In all the relations of life, and particularly as wife and mother, she was unusually capable. She was much esteemed in the community and was endowed with the graces that only a genuine, wholesome and lovely character can confer. On the 6th day of September, 1903, after an illness of some duration, she passed away, leaving her husband and children to mourn their irreparable loss.

To this marriage there were born five children, three daughters and two sons. The daughters are Zula L. Pemberton, for several years a successful teacher in the Beatrice schools and now a highly respected teacher in the public schools of Seattle, Washington; Pauline, wife of Wylie B. Mayer; and Louise, wife of Lee W. Johnson, both of Beatrice. Mr. Mayer is a successful business man and Mr. Johnson for several years has been the official reporter for the Eighteenth judicial district of Nebraska; since the entry of the United States into the great world war he has acted also as head clerk of the local draft board. The sons of Judge Pemberton are Frederick K. Pemberton, a young business man of Beatrice, and Guilford Pemberton, a cadet in the signal corps of the aviation service now preparing for service in France, at Ellington Field, Texas.

Politically Judge Pemberton has always affiliated with the Republican party, and to the honors bestowed upon him by this great national organization he has faithfully endeavored to respond by honoring it in the character of his public services as a representative of his party.

While not directly connected with any religious organization, Judge Pemberton is by nature a religious man. He accepts without reservation the general teachings of Christianity as lived and taught by its great founder, Jesus of Nazareth.

Having gained and, through long years of association, held the esteem of an entire community; having so discharged the duties of an advocate and a lawyer as to dignify and ennoble the great and learned profession; having through long years so administered justice as judge of an important court as to command the respect of both the bench and bar of a great state, Judge Leander M. Pemberton can await without trepidation or fear the hour when it shall be said of him "the silver cord has been loosed, the golden bowl broken, the pitcher broken at the fountain."

EDGAR ROTHROCK—The story is told that on a Dutch sailing vessel in the year 1716 there was a man who wore a reddish-brown coat and whom the passengers named "Rot-Rock." Anyhow it is an established fact that Gottlieb Rothrock, the first and possibly the only Rothrock to come to America, arrived in the year 1716 and settled in York county, Pennsylvania.

In 1746 twin sons were born to one Philip Rothrock (probably a son of Gottlieb Rothrock), who lived in Manchester township, York county, Pennsylvania. These sons, Philip named Valentine and Peter. The former remained in Pennsylvania while the latted emigrated to North Carolina and settled four miles south of Winston-Salem, where on April 19, 1785, was born to him a son whom he named Joseph.

Joseph Rothrock was a farmer and blacksmith, and spent his life in the vicinity of his birth. He died in 1868 and was buried in the cemetery beside the Freiburg Moravian church, seven miles south of Winston-Salem, of which church he was a devout member. Joseph was twice married — first to Magdalena Knaup, who bore to him six children, and after whose death he married Sarah Spach, six children being born of this second union. For this sketch our interest centers in Martin, who was born April 24, 1814, the second son, by the first marriage.

Martin Rothrock left his childhood home and immigrated to the new west in 1838, settling in Edwards county, Illinois, where he followed the occupations of his father. Among the people whom he learned to know in the vicinity of his new home was an orphan girl, Elizabeth Rothrock, who was born January 22, 1822, and who lived with a family of another name. Their acquaintance ripened into love and they were united in holy matrimony June 22, 1842. To this union were born five sons and three daughters. The second child, Eli Sanford, was born August 5, 1849.

Eli S. Rothrock grew to manhood in the vicinity of his birth and on August 4, 1870, he married Susannah Forney. To this union were born ten children, the seventh of whom is the subject of this sketch. Eli S. Rothrock and his good wife left their childhood home early in 1876, with three horses and a covered wagon, and drove to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where they lived until the spring of 1878, when they removed to what is now Carlisle, Fillmore county, Nebraska. By occupation he was a farmer, but he also served the Bethel Church of the Brethren acceptably as a minister. On March 11, 1883 a son was born to them, whom they named Edgar Eli.

The Forneys came to America from Switzerland and settled in Pennsylvania in colonial days. John Forney, Salisbury, Somerset county, Pennsylvania was born November 15, 1777. He married Susannah Buechley, and to them, were born nine sons and three daughters. By trade John Forney was a carpenter and cooper, and from the year 1830 he served the Berlin congregation of what is now the Church of the Brethren (Dunkard) as minister. He died August 31, 1846, and his wife departed this life July 27, 1862, at the age of seventy-five years.

Michael Forney, son of John and Susannah Forney, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1811. February 16, 1834 he married Rachel Horner, who was a daughter of John Horner. To this union ten children were born. The seventh was Susannah, who married Eli Sanford Rothrock. The Forneys were Dunkards, and many of them preachers. Michael and two of his brothers, two of his sons, and several grandsons were ministers. The Rothrocks were Moravians. Elizabeth Rothrock changed her church relationship and united with the Church of the Brethren when she was in middle life.

Edgar Eli Rothrock grew up on his father's homstead at Carlisle, Nebraska. Having completed their studies in the country school he and his brothers and youngest sister drove to Davenport, Nebraska, and finished in the high school. Then Edgar attended Mount Morris College, Mount Morris, Illinois, nearly two years, and finished the Latin-Scientific course. The following year was spent in the school of agriculture at Lincoln, Nebraska. February 14, 1907, he and Bertha Evora Sweitzer were united in marriage, at the bride's home, near Waterloo, Iowa. Mrs. Edgar Rothrock, daughter of Amos D. and Harriet (Engle) Sweitzer was born September 11, 1886, being the seventh in a family of eight children. Both her parents were born

and reared in Pennsylvania, as were their parents before them, being of the sturdy Pennsylvania-German pioneer stock of that great commonwealth. After their marriage Edgar and Bertha Rothrock, settled on a farm near Carlisle, Nebraska. The Bethel congregation of the Church of the Brethren elected him to the ministry in November, 1907. At once he entered upon his duties and preached his first sermon the first Sunday of January, 1908. The following winters were spent in study at home, in McPherson College, Kansas, and Bethany Bible School, Chicago, Illinois. March 1, 1910, the Bethel church invited him to accept the pastorate, which he did, and he served his home congregation in a very acceptable manner for seven and one-half years. He resigned this position to accept a similar one in the South Beatrice church, near Holmesville, Gage county, Nebraska, in September, 1917. In this new field he is active not only in the things pertaining directly to the church but also in those for the general development of the community life. He helped to plan the campaign which resulted in the forming of the consolidated school at Holmesville. He knows and loves country people and he believes in the future of the rural community.

Into this home six children have been born, all of whom are living. They are: Kathryn Bernita, born February 6, 1908; Aileen May, born May 1, 1909; Kevin Monroe, born December 23, 1910; Ruth Elizabeth, born December 1, 1912; Samuel Amos, born March 26, 1914; and Edgar Spurgeon, born, July 27, 1918.

JAMES W. MARPLES, the subject of this sketch, was born in Faribault county, Minnesota, May 19, 1864. He is the son of Charles Marples and Hannah Jane (Isley) Marples. In 1868 his parents migrated from Minnesota to the then new state of Nebraska, and located in Saline county, on a farm near the present city of Wilber. His father served four years as county clerk of that county during its early history, the county seat at that time being Swan City, located on Swan creek, a short distance southwest of DeWitt. It was afterwards moved to Pleasant Hill, and when Wilber was laid out, in 1872, it became, and still is, the county seat of Saline county.

In 1875 Mr. Marples' parents moved to Gage county and located on a farm southeast of Blue Springs, where the head of the family died within the following winter. In 1877 the mother married N. Norris, an early settler in Saline county, and they still live on the old Marples homestead, three miles east of Wymore.

Mr. Marples obtained a good, usable education in the country schools of Island Grove township, Gage county, and looks back with much satisfaction to those happy days of his early life,— days when the old-fashioned spelling school and the A, B, C method of instruction had not gone entirely out of style, and the Three R's still constituted the principal source of learning in the common schools. Having completed an eighth-grade course in the district school, he spent some time in Campbell University, at Holton, Kansas, entering that institution in 1884.

In 1875, when Mr. Marples first came to Gage county, there was still much unbroken prairie throughout the county, where wild game common to prairie solitudes could be found — the quail, prairie chicken, and now and then a deer. A few miles south of his father's farm lay the Otoe Indian reservation, an unbroken stretch of prairie reaching from three miles in Jefferson county to within two miles of the east line of Gage county, and extending ten miles south, two of which were in Marshall and Washington counties, Kansas. By a short ride or drive from Mr. Marples' boyhood home, a person could be in the midst of primeval conditions,— overhead the blue sky like a great hollow dome; on every hand the wide, rolling prairie, stretching to the far horizon; a landscape unbroken by a single sign of civilized life, and a silence which had brooded over Nebraska from the dawn of time. Mr. Marples' boyhood and youth were not infrequently enlivened by the presence of

blanketed Indians and he recalls these experiences with the keenest interest.

Mr. Marples has until recently led the life of a farmer. In 1909 he was elected a member of the Gage county board of supervisors, from the Fifth supervisors' district, which includes Rockford, Blue Springs, Sherman, Island Grove and Liberty townships. By successive re-elections he held this office until January, 1918, when he resigned to accept the position of deputy county clerk of Gage county. During his connection with county affairs, the entire indebtedness of Gage county has been liquidated, leaving the county for the first time since 1870 entirely free of debt. To Mr. Marples much of the credit is due for this very satisfactory state of affairs.

MARION TAYLOR CUMMINGS was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, June 21, 1862. He is a son of A. M. Cummings and Frances B. Cummings. When he was one year old his parents moved from Iowa to the state of Kansas and located near Gardner. He obtained the rudiments of an education in the common schools of that state and, having prepared for university work, he, in 1883, went to the State University at Lawrence, Kansas, quitting in his junior year. For one year he was engaged in a clerical position at Lawrence.

While attending the University of Kansas he made the acquaintance of Miss Marianna Griffin, a native of that state, born June 23, 1869. In the delightful intimacy of college life was formed between these two students a friendship which led to romantic love, and on the 1st day of May, 1888, at Lawrence, Kansas, they became husband and wife. Both were independent thinkers, both well educated, both ambitious, and the marriage that was broken by death was an ideal one. In August, 1890, they moved from Kansas to Beatrice, Nebraska, and soon became factors in the social and business life of the community. Here on the 30th day of November, 1899, Mr. Cummings' beloved wife, Marianna., died, and she was laid to rest in Evergreen Home cemetery. The children of this marriage were Luella, Edith Eleanor and Gale Taylor Cummings.

On the 5th day of January, 1901 Mr. Cummings married Almida Marie Longtin, of Beatrice, a good and noble woman, and from this marriage have sprung Marianna Marie, Francis Marion and Emerie Sextus Cummings. These children are all living. Mr. Cummings' eldest child, Luella, is serving the government at Washington as clerk in the geological survey; Edith Eleanor is fellowship assistant in astronomy at Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, while Gale Taylor Cummings is in the marine service of his country, at present stationed at Mare Island, California. The children of the second marriage are at home, the eldest, Marianna, having just graduated from the Lincoln high school.

Mr. Cummings, with his family, came to Beatrice from Lawrence, Kansas, in August, 1890. His first act was to buy a cup of water, for five cents, on the old Chautauqua grounds, on the day when the Rev. Thomas DeWitt Talmage preached to the multitude. His first meal in Gage county was eaten on the open prairie, east of the tile works, near where the Country Club now has golf links.

His prairie schooner stopped at 722 South Sixth Street, and he unloaded his wife and baby and took root there. His assets were a blind horse and eight hundred and sixty-four dollars in cash; his bills payable were one thousand dollars, for which his mother was security. But Mr. Cummings was young, ardent, and active. He worked hard, and prospered. After a year in the coal business, he put up an ice crop, and from this he paid his debts and bought a home for his family. This venture also started his father-in-law in the ice business, from which he grew wealthy. To his coal and ice business Mr. Cummings then added a grain business, and "went over the top." He was the first man in Nebraska to handle a wet harvest by use of a drying kiln. The venture paid, and out of it he coined the aphorism, "The Lord loves the valorous." This has been his motto ever

since, and his success in business affairs seems to prove its verity.

In 1903 there came a tremendous flood and the Big Blue river attained proportions which had previously been unknown, even to the oldest inhabitant of the state. Most of Mr. Cummings' property, cribbed corn, cattle, and milling interest, was swept in a red streak on the wrong side of the ledger. His operations had been extensive and varied, and he found himself indebted to the various banks in a total sum of seventy-one thousand dollars. After selling off every kind of merchantable stock, he was still behind the game in the amount of twenty thousand dollars. With undaunted courage, he smiled a little more affably, buckled down a little harder and paid out the second year after the flood.

He had acquired a tract of one block with double trackage on Sixth street, opposite the Dempster mill manufacturing plant, and shortly after the great flood, he erected on this property a fine elevator, having a capacity of eighty thousand bushels. In 1906 he entered into copartnership with Robert Pease in the coal and grain business, but the university attracted him to Lincoln, and he, in 1908, sold his Beatrice business to his partner, moved to Lincoln, purchased an elevator there in 1910, and the following year moved his family to the capital city, where they are now settled in an elegant home on the corner of Twenty-first and B streets. As a business proposition, Mr. Cummings has no complaint to make of the new location. Prosperity appears to have attended every move.

Mr. Cummings' family motto has been "Not a boom — just a steady growth". It has found expression in a family of twenty-seven children, the six already named, and also ten Belgian and eleven French war orphans who are now his by adoption. Those who know his humane tendencies will not be surprised to see this family doubled in the near future.

But Mr. Cummings has found time for other activities. He is the inventor of a system for salvaging wet or immature grain, which he has employed in his own business with great success. He was also one of the first, probably the very first, inventors of the depth bomb, which is nearly the sole reliance for combatting the odious submarine. He also invented a pneumatic mortar for hurling these bombs at the rate of seven a minute, a distance of one thousand yards.

Germany declared unrestricted submarine warfare February 2, 1917. On February 18th Mr. Cummings was in Washington with blueprints of these inventions, and formally laid them before the board of naval ordnance. The board nominally turned him down, but actually adopted the depth charge, which, in a slightly modified form, they have been using since June, 1917. They also declined outwardly to consider the pneumatic gun, but the New York World of July 5, 1918, gives an account of a battle in which the pneumatic mortar was first employed, and with perfect results, five out of six attacking submarines being sunk by two merchantmen armed with this weapon. Doubtless more will be heard of it before the great world war closes. With the patriotic generosity characteristic of him, Mr. Cummings took out no patents on these inventions, but presented them to the ordnance department of the United States, without reservation and without price. He wishes to credit here Dean Oscar V. P. Stout, a graduate of the Beatrice high school and of the State University of Nebraska, and for many years the distinguished head of the engineering department of that university, for valuable assistance in perfecting these inventions, and Congressman Reavis and Senator Borah for their aid in getting the inventions properly lodged with the national ordnance department at Washington.

The writer of this sketch, after many years of intimate personal friendship with Mr. Cummings, can attest his value as a citizen, a friend and a man.

JOHN L. SCHIEK. — Civic and business altruism has been effectively exemplified in the career of this representative business man of the city of Beatrice, and he is now successfully established in the automobile business,

with headquarters in a modern and well equipped building of which he is the owner. Mr. Schiek has been a resident of Gage county for more than thirty years, has here been concerned with various lines of business enterprise and his secure place in popular confidence and esteem is assured by the fact that he served two and one-half terms as sheriff of the county, his administration having passed upon record as being one of the best given to the shrievalty of the county within the entire period of its history.

Mr. Schiek was born at Mokena, Will county, Illinois, on the 26th of March, 1863, and is a son of John and Helena (Miller) Schiek, both natives of Germany. John Schiek was reared and educated in his native land and was one of the many sterling sons of Germany who was a revolter and came to the United States in the year 1848. From the Atlantic seaboard he made his way westward to Chicago, which was then a comparatively insignificant city, and from the future metropolis of the west he proceeded with wagon and ox team to Joliet, Illinois, finally establishing a permanent home in Will county, where he became a prosperous farmer, besides having been for a number of years engaged in the hotel business at Mokena and having also been one of the leading merchants of that village. His energy was equalled by his business versatility, and through his own well directed endeavors he achieved independence and definite prosperity. He was one of the pioneer operators of a threshing machine in northern Illinois, and he continued his residence in that state until his death. He was one of the honored pioneer citizens of Will county, Illinois, and was about sixty-eight years of age at the time of his demise. He was a son of Henry Schiek, and the entire family came from Germany to America in the late '40s, the parents of Mr. Schiek having been residents of Illinois during the closing years of their earnest and worthy lives. John Schiek aligned himself as a stalwart supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, was influential in public affairs of a local order and held various offices of trust, including that of county commissioner. His venerable widow, now a resident of Joliet, Illinois, is a daughter of George Miller, who immigrated with his family from Germany and established himself as one of the pioneer farmers of Cook county, Illinois, where he passed the residue of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Schiek became the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this review was the fourth in order of birth, and of the number seven are now living.

To the public schools of Mokena, Illinois, John L. Schiek is indebted for his early educational advantages, and as a lad he began to assist his father in connection with the latter's various business affairs. He remained in his native state until 1886, on the 26th of March of which year he arrived in Beatrice, Nebraska. Here he was for a number of years employed in the general mercantile establishment of Kline, Lang & Mosshel, and within this period he assisted in the organization of the Beatrice volunteer fire department, of which he served several years as chief. He finally established himself in the general merchandise business in the village of Filley, this county, where he continued operations in this line for three years. He then returned to Beatrice and resumed his association with the mercantile concern by which he had previously been employed; later he engaged in buying and selling horses, and in 1916 he was elected sheriff of the county, his efficient administration meeting with such approval that he was retained in this office two and one-half terms, as previously noted in this context. Since his retirement from public office Mr. Schiek has built up a most prosperous enterprise in the handling of automobiles and the conducting of a general garage and repair shop, his establishment having a full line of automobile parts and accessories. He is the local agent for the popular Buick automobile.

Mr. Schiek is known as one of Gage county's loyal and aggresive advocates of the cause of the Republican party and he has been influential in political affairs in the county. He has served in various minor political offices of local order, and he has been prominent in connection with fire-department affairs. He

was a delegate from Gage county to the convention of the International Firemen's Association held in the city of Montreal, Canada, has served as president of the Nebraska State Firemen's Association, and at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, in the city of St. Louis, he was a member of the official board which had charge of awarding prizes to firemen. In addition to being prominent and influential in civic affairs in his home city and county Mr. Schiek is actively affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Travelers' Protective Association, besides which he is a popular member of the Beatrice County Club. Both he and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church.

In 1889 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Schiek to Miss Anna Grussel, who was born in the state of New York, and in conclusion of this review is given brief record concerning their children: Vivian became the wife of Berney Keach and has one child, Enid; Julia is the wife of Frank J. Kline, of Beatrice; John is an artificer in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth United States Infantry, of the national army forces that are preparing to take part in the great European war, and is stationed at Deming, New Mexico; and Beatrice and Ralph remain at the parental home.

W. C. BLACK, JR. — One of the most important and effectively ordered industrial enterprises of the city of Beatrice is that conducted under the title of Black Brothers, and this enterprise involves the ownership and operation of a thoroughly modern flour mill that has a daily output capacity of three hundred barrels. The products of this mill are of the highest standard and command a substantial trade as a standard household provision throughout southeastern Nebraska. He whose name initiates this paragraph has been the active manager of the Black Brothers mill since 1902 and his interposition in this capacity has inured notably to the success and expansion of the business.

Mr. Black was born at Sycamore, Dekalb county, Illinois, on the 3d of June, 1878, and is a son of William C. and Mary (Conant) Black. William C. Black, Sr., was born in Ireland, in May, 1835, and was a child of three years at the time of the family immigration to the United States. He was reared and educated in Pennsylvania and as a young man his ability was on a parity with his ambition, with the result that he achieved distinct success and became prominently engaged eventually in the milling and lumbering business. With these lines of enterprise he was actively identified at Sycamore, Illinois, and later he moved to the city of Youngstown, Ohio. In 1879 he became associated with his brother, Cochrane S. Black, in the purchase of the flour mill at Beatrice, Nebraska, and the same has since been operated under the title of Black Brothers, the while its equipment has at all times been kept up to the best modern standard in all departments. In 1888 the firm purchased also a mill at Blue Springs, this county, and this also has continued to be operated successfully by the firm of Black Brothers. William C. Black, Sr., celebrated in May, 1917, the eighty-second anniversary of his birth, and though he did not remove to Nebraska at the time when he and his brother purchased the mill at Beatrice, his brother assuming active charge of the same, he finally established his residence in Beatrice, in 1902, and here he is now living virtually retired, a venerable citizen who commands the unqualified esteem of all who know him. He has been one of the world's productive workers and has achieved success worthy of the name. His gracious wife was born in the state of New York, and their companionship has continued in ideal relationship for more than fifty years, both being earnest members of the Presbyterian church. Of the two children Mrs. C. M. Shafer is the elder, and is living in Kansas City, Missouri.

W. C. Black, Jr., acquired his youthful education in the public schools of Illinois and Ohio and his initial business experience was gained through association with enterprises in which his father was a principal. He developed

strong initiative and executive ability and thus was well equipped when he assumed the active management of the mill and business of Black Brothers at Beatrice, his service in this capacity having covered a period of fifteen years, within which he has become recognized as one of the most progressive and loyal citizens and representative business men of Gage county and the fine little city which is its metropolis and judicial center. Mr. Black is a member of the directorate of the First National Bank of Beatrice, is a Republican in his political allegiance, and he and his wife are active members of the First Presbyterian church in their home city.

In the year 1901 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Black to Miss Ivy Howey, a member of a well known Gage county family that finds representation on other pages of this publication, and the three children of this union are Frances, William and Beatrice.

GEORGE H. VAN HORNE. — An able and popular public executive in the city of Beatrice is Mr. Van Horne who is superintendent of mails in connection with the administration of the large volume of business now conducted in the postoffice of the metropolis and judicial center of Gage county. Aside from his assured standing as a citizen special interest attaches to the career of Mr. Van Horne by reason of the fact that he is consistently to be designated as a pioneer of Gage county, within whose gracious borders he established his home nearly half a century ago, so that he has been a witness of and contributor to the vigorous process of development and advancement that has made this one of the populous, prosperous and representative integral divisions of a great commonwealth.

Mr. Van Horne takes a just pride not only in claiming pioneer honors in Gage county but also in being a representative of two of the sterling pioneer families of the Wolverine state. He was born on the paternal homestead farm in Bridgewater township, Washtenaw county, Michigan, and the date of his nativity was March 30, 1854. His parents, William H. and Elizabeth G. (Howe) Van Horne, were born in the state of New York and their marriage was solemnized in Michigan, to the settlement of the southern portion of which commonwealth the old Empire state contributed a numerous quota in the pioneer days. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of the subject of this review were numbered among the pioneers of southern Michigan, and the former became a large landowner and influential citizen, as a pioneer of energy and much constructive ability. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Van Horne likewise became prominent in connection with civic affairs and industrial development in southern Michigan, served as a member of the state legislature in the early days and was otherwise a figure of no little prominence in the formative history of that state. William H. Van Horne became a substantial farmer in Washtenaw county, Michigan, where he continued his residence until 1880, when he established his residence in Beatrice, Nebraska. Here he lived to the patriarchal age of ninety-five years, his loved and devoted wife having entered into eternal rest in the year 1891. Of their children the subject of this sketch is the eldest; Dwight W. is railroad station agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad in the village of Syracuse, Otoe county, Nebraska; Miss Agnes H. remained with her venerable father until his death; James H. is a machinist by vocation and resides at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Josephine remains at the parental home, in Beatrice; and Julia, who was for fifteen years stenographer and chief clerk in the offices of the Sonderegger nurseries, at Beatrice, is now in the service of the government in connection with war activities in the national capital, her technical and executive ability having gained to her a responsible clerical position.

William H. Van Horne died in a hospital at Beatrice on the morning of May 8, 1918. About a week previously he had received a fall, in which he fractured one of his legs, the physical shock, owing to his great age, having been the virtual cause of his death. He was a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Demo-

cratic party and was for many years affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he passed the various official chairs. While he resided in Michigan his religious views was in harmony with the tenets of the Presbyterian church, of which his wife was a zealous member.

In his native county George H. Van Horne gained his early educational discipline in the rural schools and the public schools of the village of Manchester, where he completed the curriculum of the high school. As a boy and youth he gained practical experience in connection with the operations of the home farm and that he made good use of the educational advantages that were afforded him is demonstrated in the effective service which he gave as a member of the pedagogic profession, he having devoted about a decade to service as a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of Michigan, Iowa and Nebraska. Desirous of identifying himself with the progressive west, Mr. Van Horne came to Nebraska and established his residence at Beatrice on the 21st of April, 1875, — about eight years after the admission of the state to the Union. He soon afterward purchased a farm in what is now Lincoln township, and for the ensuing ten years he was engaged in breaking his land and improving and cultivating his farm besides participating in the public and civic affairs of his township and county and serving as school director, etc. In 1885 he left the farm and removed to Beatrice, the judicial center of the county, and here he followed various occupations until September, 1888, when he was appointed to a clerical position in the local postoffice, with the administration of which he has since been consecutively identified and in which he now holds the position of superintendent of mails. Mr. Van Horne adheres to the Democratic faith and takes loyal interest in all things touching the civic and material welfare of his home city, county and state. He is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church.

On the 27th of June, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Van Horne to Miss Mary Shear, who was born in the state of New York, and their only child is an adopted son, Leslie G., who was taken into their home when he was nine months old, after the death of his mother, Mrs. E. E. Greer, a sister of his adoptive mother.

KILPATRICK BROTHERS. — No history of Gage county, and in fact no history of Nebraska or the west, would be complete, if it failed to take account of the Kilpatrick family and of Kilpatrick Brothers.

The family of Samuel and Rachael Kilpatrick in point of time was amongst the first families of Gage county. These pioneers came to our county from Iowa, in 1859. Leaving Benton county in June of that year, with ox teams, they crossed the Missouri river at Plattsmouth on the third day of July, and followed the course of that great river to Nebraska City. After a few days they ventured west as far as Tecumseh, where they camped for a while on the open prairie. From that insignificant western village they came to Beatrice, then a village even more insignificant, and for an entire week camped on the bottom land of the Big Blue river, at a point a little west and south of the old Court street ford. About the first of August, Samuel Kilpatrick established, by actual settlement, preëmption rights to the "north half of the northwest fractional quarter and the southwest fractional quarter of the northwest fractional quarter of section thirty-one, in township four north, of range five east" in Gage county, Nebraska, — the tract containing $102\,^{56}/_{100}$ acres. On the first day of January, 1863, at Brownville, Nebraska, he made entry of this tract of land under the new homestead law of congress which went into effect that day, his entry being the second one under the act. This quarter-section of land continued to be the home of Samuel and Rachael Kilpatrick the remainder of their lives, and it is still owned by their sons and held by them in reverent memory of their parents.

Samuel Kilpatrick was born at McConnellsville, Ohio, December 5, 1818. His parents, John and Sarah (Wallace) Kilpatrick, were of

Scotch-Irish descent, and were pioneers by habit, tradition, and instinct. At a very early age in the life of their son, they moved from Ohio to Indiana, and thence to Illinois, where he grew to maturity. In the country district schools of those states he obtained a good, usable education for that day. In his late youth and early manhood he spent much of his time as a farm hand, and by industry and frugality he had acquired considerable property before settling down in life.

Rachael (Thompson) Kilpatrick also was born in Ohio, near Senecaville, Guernsey county, where she resided with her parents, David and Ruth Thompson, until she attained the age

Kilpatrick Mausoleum
Evergreen Home Cemetery

of ten years, when they moved to Adams county, Ohio, locating near Wilmington. In 1841 they moved to Will county, Illinois, and settled near Kankakee. Here on the eighteenth day of May, 1844, she and Samuel Kilpatrick were married, at her father's home, by Dr. Jewett, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman. At the time of their marriage the husband was twenty-six years of age and the wife eighteen. This marriage, solemnized so long ago, proved to be an ideally happy one and was broken only by the death of the husband, Samuel Kilpatrick, which occurred on the 20th day of February, 1875. His beloved wife, Rachael, survived him until the 23d day of May, 1908, when she too passed away, at the old home where so many years of her long and useful life had been spent.

Almost immediately after their marriage Samuel and Rachael Kilpatrick left Illinois and went to live in the state of Missouri, where they made their home on a farm in Jasper county from 1845 to 1857 and where six of their children were born. During the year last above named they moved to Benton county, Iowa, and thence they came, as above narrated, in 1859, to Gage county, Nebraska.

To Samuel and Rachael Kilpatrick the following children were born, namely: Sarah Elizabeth Kilpatrick, July 19, 1845; John David Kilpatrick, October 7, 1847; Henry Clay Kilpatrick, August 23, 1850; William Hamilton Kilpatrick, February 6, 1853; Abraham Kilpatrick, February 21, 1855; Robert Jackson Kilpatrick, September 11, 1856; Samuel Davenport Kilpatrick, March 21, 1859; Abraham L. Kilpatrick, August 31, 1861; Josephus M. Kilpatrick, September 7, 1867; Lottie Rebecca Kilpatrick, March 5, 1871.

Of these children, Sarah Elizabeth died August 31, 1851, aged six years, one month, twelve days; Abraham died September 30, 1855, aged eight months. Their remains rest in a country cemetery in Jasper county, near Joplin, Missouri, and the place of their burial is marked by a stone. Abraham L. died September 18, 1863, aged two years, seventeen days. Lottie Rebecca died December 23, 1873, aged two years, nine months, seventeen days. John David Kilpatrick, the eldest son, died at his home in Beatrice, July 27, 1891, aged forty-three years, nine months, twenty days. Henry Clay Kilpatrick died at his farm home, ten miles east of Hebron, in Thayer county, May 11, 1902, aged fifty-one years, three months, twelve days. The remains of the deceased members of this pioneer family, parents and children, except those of Sarah Elizabeth and Abraham, are interred in the splendid mausoleum erected in 1912 by the surviving sons, William Hamilton, Robert Jackson, Samuel Davenport, and Josephus M. Kilpatrick, in Evergreen Home cemetery, near Beatrice.

No one who was at all acquainted with Samuel and Rachael Kilpatrick, the founders of this Gage county family, ever failed to accord to them the highest respect, not only for their kindness of heart and neighborly quali-

ties, but also for their acknowledged worth of character. He was a kindly, good man, sincerely and devoutly religious, a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Though unassuming, and unambitious of worldly fame and favor, he was a good business man, extremely useful to his community, highly honored, and exerted a wholesome influence wherever he was known. He was well informed, a genial companion, a most kind husband and father, a charitable and helpful neighbor, a true, good friend. Mrs. Rachael Kilpatrick also came of religious stock. Her father, David Thompson, was a long-time member of the United Brethren church and was a minister of the Gospel. Her early life was spent in an atmosphere of piety and religious enthusiasm, and there was probably never a conscious moment of her life when she was not dominated by the deep forces of the Christian religion. Her charities were large. She not only gave liberally to the church of which she was a member, but also stretched a helping hand to the poor and needy. She, with Mrs. Nathan Blakely, many years ago donated to Centenary Methodist Episcopal church of Beatrice the fine pipe organ now in use there, and in many other ways she demonstrated the natural benevolence of her heart. She died the object of the love and veneration of her stalwart sons and of the affection and profound respect of a host of relatives and friends.

The firm known as Kilpatrick Brothers and the corporation described as Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins Contracting Company, originated with John David Kilpatrick, and may be said to date from his old freighting days along the Oregon Trail from Missouri river points west to the Rocky mountains. From his youth he was engaged in this adventurous business and was a well known figure amongst the traders, freighters, emigrants, gold-seekers, and overland stage drivers who thronged that great highway in the early history of the west. When the Union Pacific Railway was under construction across the state in 1867-68-69, he, with a string of teams, engaged for two years in this work, which he continued until connection was made between the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railway lines at Promontory Point, state of Utah, where he witnessed the driving of the golden spike, May 10, 1869, which signalled the completion of the first transcontinental railway line in North America. That same year he moved his grading outfit to Kansas, then to Arkansas, then to Louisiana and Texas. In each of these states he engaged in railroad construction work, and in the city of Galveston he was employed by the municipal corporation in building docks and grading the streets. He built, under contract, for the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad Company, the first sixty-five miles of track north from Galveston, which included a bridge across Galveston Bay, and this was the only railroad bridge at Galveston that survived the great disaster of 1900. With his associates he built the Tremont House, a six-story, brick hotel covering a fourth of a block in the city of Galveston. Such, indeed, were his activities that by the time he was thirty years of age he was one of the best known contractors and business men of the south. In 1879 he returned to Nebraska and formed the co-partnership of Kilpatrick Brothers, at that time composed of himself, and his brothers William H., Robert J., and Samuel D. Kilpatrick. As railroad contractors the firm was immediately successful. That same year it obtained a contract for the grading of the Union Pacific Railway line from Oketo, Kansas, to Beatrice, and for building the bridges and laying the track on this line from Marysville to Beatrice.

In 1882 the Union Pacific Railway Company undertook the construction of what is known as the Oregon Short Line, extending from the town of Granger, Wyoming, to Portland, Oregon, and Kilpatrick Brothers obtained a contract covering the construction of two hundred sixty-four miles of this important line of railway. The work carried the railroad line across the lava beds of southern Idaho, through the Rocky, Sierra and Coast Range mountains, and was in those days a most difficult feat of railroad construction. But under the management of John David Kilpatrick the firm's contract was performed with such care, skill and ability as to lay the foundation of the Kilpat-

rick Brothers' fortunes. By 1886 the firm had graded approximately six hundred thirty-two miles of railroad lines, located in Texas, Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Kansas, and Illinois.

In 1886 Kilpatrick Brothers associated with themselves C. W. Collins, of Brooklyn, New York, in a copartnership known as Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins. Mr. Collins was then an active young man with considerable experience as a railroad contractor and a wide acquaintance with railroad officials. This new firm was successful from the first, and a period of great activity ensued in railroad construction. In 1891, after the death of John David Kilpatrick, Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins organized a corporation known as Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins Contracting Company. These organizations and Kilpatrick Brothers, the partnership in which the brothers were the only members, continued in railroad construction for sixteen years, during which time they held construction contracts covering 3,339.07 miles of railroad, for which they received $31,363,947.08. In addition to their railroad contracts they put in thirty-four miles of water pipe lines for the Union Pacific and the Colorado & Southern Railroads, for which they were paid $88,315.99; and constructed reservoirs for two privately owned irrigation and development companies, and a reservoir and tunnel for the United States government, for all which they received $326,970.56.

Amongst other activities these companies discovered and opened a great coal field in the state of Wyoming. They induced the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company to extend its line of railroad from Alliance, Nebraska, to these coal fields, a distance of one hundred sixty-five miles, and in December, 1889, was loaded the first coal train at their mines. This industry resulted in the founding of the towns of Newcastle and Cambria, Wyoming. In 1910 the coal mines, with their equipment, were sold by Kilpatrick Brothers, who, by the retirement of Mr. Collins, in 1902, had succeeded to all the rights of Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins and Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins Contracting Company. These mines are to-day in successful operation and have been the source of a tremendous output of coal.

Mention has been made of the retirement of Mr. Collins from the copartnership and the corporation in which he was associated with the Kilpatrick Brothers. This association had lasted for sixteen years, all of which had been crowded with important business. On his retirement, in 1902, his interests were purchased by his associates, and the records of these concerns were in such perfect condition that this transfer was completed within an hour, to the satisfaction of all persons concerned.

The immense labors performed by the Kilpatrick Brothers and their associates in business, offer mute but most convincing evidence of their energy and courage. As railroad contractors of integrity and ability they are known over all the west, from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast.

In addition to their railroad construction work, the Kilpatrick Brothers have for many years been engaged in the business of farming and stock-raising. Since 1917 they have devoted their attention exclusively to these interests. They own farming and grazing lands in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, and Texas. At present they are farming over six thousand acres of land, and the remainder of their extensive holdings is used for grazing purposes. William, Robert, and Davenport own beautiful homes in the city of Beatrice. The youngest brother, Josephus M., lives on the old family homestead, in a beautiful modern mansion. In addition to their homes in this city, they have for many years owned the old stone building at the corner of Fifth and Court streets, erected in the early '70s by Blakely, Reynolds & Townsend, pioneer merchants of Beatrice, and to this they have built an extensive brick addition on the rear, to the alley. They own also a splendid office building at the corner of Fifth and Ella streets, which, besides furnishing them with commodious offices, is occupied by the Elks Club and the Beatrice Commercial Club, and is one of the most used and necessary buildings in the city. Outside of the Beatrice

property here mentioned, they own but little city or town propery anywhere.

In 1877, John David Kilpatrick married Miss Jennie Kane, at Galveston, Texas. Two children were born of this marriage, John David and Ray M. Kilpatrick. The son died in New York, many years ago. The daughter became the wife of John P. Cook and now resides with her husband in New York city.

Henry Clay Kilpatrick, on March 14, 1875, married Miss Charlotte Wands, and moved at once to the Thayer county farm, where he resided until his death, May 11, 1902. Twelve children were the fruit of this marriage. Ten, with their mother, still survive.

William Hamilton Kilpatrick, on the 4th day of June, 1890, at Roseville, Illinois, led to the marriage altar Miss Margaret E. Nisley. They are the parents of a son, William H. Kilpatrick, Jr., and a daughter, Rachael E., now the wife of Leonard Purdy, a promising young business man of Beatrice. The son is serving his country in France as a sergeant in the quartermasters department of the expeditionary army of the United States.

Robert Jackson Kilpatrick, on the 28th day of December, 1881, at Beatrice, married Marian D. Jones, who for several years had been a teacher in the city schools of Beatrice. They are the parents of two daughters, Adelaide D., now the wife of Irving C. Hancock, of Chicago, Illinois, and Katherine R., the wife of C. L. Sherwood, an employe of the Beatrice National Bank.

Samuel Davenport Kilpatrick, on the 28th day of September, 1898, at Beatrice, married Miss Mary Bradt, a member of a pioneer family of Gage county.

Josephus M. Kilpatrick, on the 20th day of September, 1892, at Brownville, Nebraska, married Miss Augusta Meitz. To them have been born a daughter, Augusta, wife of Clarence W. Graff, and two sons, John J. and Clarence Kilpatrick, both now in the service of their country, — John as a first-class truck driver, Company D, Eighth Train, while Clarence is in the United States navy, Fourth Division, on board the ship North Carolina.

It will be readily conceded by all who are familiar with their history that Kilpatrick Brothers have made for themselves a large place in the world of work as well as in the world of finance. No other family or organization of Gage county, or perhaps in the state of Nebraska, has a more enviable record of usefulness and of things achieved. They have performed vast labors and acquired large possessions by methods which will bear the closest scrutiny. Beginning with the career of the oldest brother, the generous and courtly John D. Kilpatrick, and continuing through the long years, they have maintained a high standard of integrity and efficiency. Their phenomenal success has been due in part to careful, systematic business methods; in part to a keen, discriminating knowledge of men; but more than all else, perhaps, to an unbounded loyalty and confidence in each other, enabling them to act, in the gravest affairs of life, as one man. This brotherhood has never palled or weakened; it is not subject to fluctuation or change. Singly any one of its members might have carved out for himself a conspicuous place in the world; collectively they have proved invincible.

JOSEPH H. RAMSEY. — There is no dearth of interesting data in the personal and ancestral record of this sterling pioneer citizen, who has been a resident of Gage county for nearly forty years and who, after having been long and successfully identified with productive agricultural and live-stock industry in Filley township, is now living retired in his attractive home at 1220 Elk street in the city of Beatrice. Enduring distinction must ever attach to the name of Mr. Ramsey for the gallant service which he gave as a youthful soldier of the Union in the Civil war, for few lived up more fully to the tension of that great conflict, or endured a greater quota of hardships and perils. Again, few have had more varied and intimate experience in connection with pioneer life, for he was but a child at the time when his parents became pioneer settlers in Iowa, about the time of the admission of that state to the Union, so that he was literally reared under the conditions

and influences of the frontier. Adverting to the genealogy of Mr. Ramsey, it may be said that he is a scion of families that were founded in Virginia in the colonial period of our national history, his mother having been a member of one of the patrician and influential families of the Old Dominion and her father having offered her as her marriage dowery either a certain number of slaves or a stipulated sum of money. Though she had been reared under the influences of the institution of slavery she was averse to the same as a young woman, long before the historic abolition movement culminated in the Civil war. Thus it was but natural that her son Joseph should prove in no uncertain way his loyalty to the Union when was precipitated the war between the states of the north and the south.

Joseph H. Ramsey was born in Washington county, Missouri, on the 31st of January, 1843, and is a son of Joseph and Jane (Berry) Ramsey, both natives of Washington county, Virginia, where they were reared to adult age, their marriage having been solemnized at Abingdon, that county. Within a short time after their marriage the parents of Mr. Ramsey established their residence in Washington county, Missouri, but in the late '40s they removed to Iowa and became early settlers of Appanoose county, where the father obtained government land and developed a productive farm, besides which it is supposed that he there found more or less demand for his services as a skilled millwright. He was one of the substantial and popular citizens of Appanoose county and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, her death occurring in 1868 and he having passed away in 1878. They became the parents of three sons and seven daughters, the subject of this sketch being the youngest of the number, and of the others one daughter is living in 1918.

Joseph H. Ramsey was a child of two years at the time of the family removal to Iowa Territory, and there he was reared under the influences of the pioneer farm, the while he made good use of the advantages of the common schools of the locality. He was eighteen years old at the inception of the Civil war and promptly manifested his youthful patriotism by enlisting, on the 30th of August, 1861, as a member of Company I, Third Iowa Cavalry. He was stationed with his command at Benton Barracks, Missouri, until the following January, and his first active field service was in the southwestern part of that state, where his command came in spirited contact, at Pea Ridge, with Indians who were under Confederate influence and direction. Within a short time thereafter his regiment joined the forces under General Curtis and became involved in almost constant skirmishing while proceeding down the White river to its mouth. Thereafter the Third Iowa Cavalry took part in the first attack on Vicksburg and the battle at Jackson, Mississippi, whence they continued to Canton and then marched thirteen consecutive days and nights, with Memphis, Tennessee, as the objective point. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Ramsey was with the force that repelled the Confederate forces and cut them off from Holly Springs, at the time when General Grant was pressing against the enemy at Helena, Arkansas, in the same campaign, and in this connection he rode on his horse a distance of seventy-five miles in a single night. He was present during the entire siege of Vicksburg and thereafter took part in important conflicts with the enemy at Memphis and Little Rock. Near the latter place he thereafter was assigned with his regiment to the guarding of army supplies and outposts extending for a distance of twenty-five miles, until the spring of 1864, when he and his comrades of Company I received a furlough of thirty days. Within this period, and at the time of his visit to his home in Iowa, Mr. Ramsey further fortified himself for responsibility, as, on the 4th of March, 1864, he wedded Miss Sarah J. Evans, a daughter of Jesse and Mary (Ferguson) Evans, who were natives of Pennsylvania and who settled in Appanoose county, Iowa, in 1858, the death of the loved wife and mother having occurred the same year and the father having passed the closing period of his life in Ham-

ilton county, Nebraska. Though his term of enlistment had expired, Mr. Ramsey and a number of his comrades from Appanoose county promptly re-enlisted as veterans, and ten days after his marriage he set forth to rejoin his regiment, which was then encamped at Memphis, Tennessee. On the 1st of the following June the command received marching orders and after arriving at Ripley, Mississippi, Mr. Ramsey's company, with one other, was sent forth to collect forage for the horses, and in pursuance of this duty they encountered a Confederate battery. This precipitated activities on the part of the general command, which took up the line of march about noon on the 10th of June. In the meanwhile General Forrest had brought his Confederate forces into a desperate battle at Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi, where he had gained a decisive victory. While with his company engaged in protecting supplies on retreat Mr. Ramsey and his comrades were captured by the enemy, and incidental to this experience the following interesting record has been given: "While surrounded by the enemy Mr. Ramsey and his comrades made a dash for liberty, putting spurs to their horses and breaking for the woods. Being unable to cross the streams with their horses, they turned the animals loose and, after throwing away their heavy carbines, they traveled four nights, secreting themselves and resting during the days. When near White Station, Tennessee, Mr. Ramsey, with twenty-four of his comrades, was captured by the enemy, and he was then taken to Andersonville, where he remained incarcerated in the historic and odious Andersonville Prison until the fall of Atlanta. Here he endured all the horrors and sufferings which gave to that Confederate prison its infamous place in history, and after the capture of Atlanta he was transferred with other prisoners of war to Florence, in the northern part of South Carolina, where he encountered hardships no less strenuous than those of Andersonville. On the 31st of January, 1865, the twenty-second anniversary of his birth, Mr. Ramsey was delirious from the suffering of hunger and thirst, and he continued in this deplorable state for fifteen days, at the expiration of which he, with others, was taken to Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he was kept under guard until February 26th, when he and his equally unfortunate comrades were released, through exchange. Such was his physical emaciation and debility that he was carried by one of his comrades to the hospital at Wilmington, South Carolina, and he still had strength to realize the bliss of freedom, feeling that he had escaped, as it were, from the inferno to paradise."

After sufficiently recuperating his wasted energies to make this possible, Mr. Ramsey proceeded to Annapolis, Maryland. Later he was located at St. Louis for thirty days and he was at Atlanta, Georgia, at the time when he received his honorable discharge, on the 22d of August, 1865. He then returned to his home and his young bride, in Appanoose county, Iowa. There he finally rented land and engaged in farm enterprise, but about two years later he removed to Taylor county, that state, where he continued his zealous activities as an agriculturist for the ensuing twelve years. In March, 1880, after having disposed of his property in Iowa, Mr. Ramsey came to Gage county, Nebraska, where, in the following June, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 34, Filley township. He and his family used their wagon as an abiding place until he could erect on his wild prairie farm a temporary house, the same having been a mere shanty, twelve by twenty feet in dimensions. In the following autumn he erected a good frame house on the place, and he then turned his attention vigorously to reclaiming and developing his land, which he eventually transformed into one of the valuable and well improved farms of this section of the state. He became a most progressive and successful exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry and with increasing prosperity he showed his excellent judgment by adding materially to the area of his landed estate. He purchased an entire half section of land — one hundred and sixty acres in Holt township and the adjoining tract of equal area in Midland township. He thus found

ample scope for the concrete expression of his vital energy and progressiveness, and he developed his large property into one of the best of the landed estates of Gage county. In his activities Mr. Ramsey proved a veritable incarnation of energy and progressiveness, and not until about 1905 did he consent to leave the farm and abate his strenuous labors. At that time he removed to Beatrice, but soon the life of inactivity palled upon him and he returned to the farm. There he applied himself with characteristic vigor until 1912, when he came to a realization that both consistency and expediency justified his retirement from the responsibilities and labors that had long been his portion, and at this juncture he was fortunate in being able to purchase a handsome and recently erected house of modern design and facilities — his present attractive residence in the city of Beatrice, where his wife proves a most gracious and popular chatelaine of a home that is at all times ready to extend hospitable welcome to their host of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1914 and the occasion was made one notable in the social annals of Gage county. In the summer of 1917 they made a most pleasing visit to the old home in Appanoose county, Iowa, where Mr. Ramsey attended a reunion of his old comrades of the Civil war and renewed the more gracious memories and associations of his military career as a youthful soldier of the Civil war. He further vitalizes these associations through his affiliation with Rawlins Post, No. 36, Grand Army of the Republic, at Beatrice. He holds membership also in the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife have been for many years active members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1903 Mr. Ramsey was a member of the Nebraska legislature, and in this connection it is specially worthy of note that he introduced and ably championed what was known as the farmers' elevator bill, a most valuable measure that came to successful enactment.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey became the parents of eight children, two of whom died, in early childhood, while the family home was maintained in Taylor county, Iowa, besides which Charles, a lad of fourteen years, was killed by lightning, in 1883, about two years after the family removal to Gage county. Frank K. is now a resident of Riverside, California; Minnie is the wife of B. P. Wood, a successful farmer of Holt township; Merrill is a resident of Petersburg, Texas; and Ralph and Roy maintain their home in the city of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey enjoy the best of health and find the gracious twilight of their long and devoted companionship to be compassed by most cheering environment and the filial solicitude of their sons and daughters, the company of friends who are tried and true, the while they count themselves favored indeed in that they have seventeen grandchildren.

ANDREW J. JAMISON. — One of the representative farmers of Elm township who has by strict attendance to his farming interests become one of the progressive citizens of Gage county is Andrew J. Jamison, whose life review follows.

Andrew Jackson Jamison was born May 23, 1867, in Greene county, Indiana, the county which saw the birth of his parents, Isaac and Caroline (Burcham) Jamison; the former was born in 1842 and died in 1882; the latter was born in 1848 and in her natal state she married Isaac Jamison, to which marriage seven children were born. The eldest is Andrew Jackson, the subject of this review; Jane is the widow of W. Heaton; Isaac is a farmer of Elm township; Roxy Ann is the wife of A. Bland, living at Terre Haute, Indiana; John is farming in Elm township; the address of Seymour is unknown; William is living at Bicknell, Indiana. Mrs. Isaac Jamison, after her husband's death, married John Turley and by this marriage two children were born, George, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Otis, of Bicknell, Indiana. John Turley was a native of Indiana and is now deceased. Mrs. Jamison-Turley makes her home in Linton, Indiana.

Isaac Jamison was the son of Jackson Jamison, who named Kentucky as his natal

state and in the early part of the nineteenth century moved to the wooded lands of Indiana, where he became a very well-to-do man. He was active in the logging business and the clearing of the forests for the tilling of the rich soil which gave of its treasures of wheat and corn. In 1884 Jackson Jamison came to Gage county and until 1894 he was here engaged in farming. He then removed to Oklahoma, where his death occurred.

Andrew Jackson Jamison, with whom this review deals, received his education in the district schools of Greene county, Indiana, and in the meantime was helping with the farming operations of the old homestead. In the '80s he came to Jefferson county, Nebraska, where for a number of years he rented land and worked as a farm hand. In 1885 he came to Gage county, where he rented land until he was able, in 1907, to purchase the land which is his home, in Section 10, Elm township. He has added eighty acres to the original and also one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 9, which was received by his wife as her share of her father's estate. Mr. Jamison is now employed in the tilling of two hundred and forty acres of land and is also raising Duroc-Jersey hogs and Red Polled cattle.

On October 18, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Andrew J. Jamison and Miss Dora L. Hood (for the family history see John C. Hood sketch in this volume). To this marriage have been born six children: Ethel, the wife of Archie Carpenter, of Harbine, Nebraska; Gertrude, attending the high school at Beatrice; and Austin, Frances, Ina, and Grace, who are under the parental roof. Mrs. Jamison was born in Mason county, Illinois, in 1872, and came to Gage county in 1884.

Mr. Jamison allies himself with the Democratic party, although he has sought no political honors. He is now serving on the school board of district No. 132. Coming to the state of Nebraska in his early manhood, Mr. Jamison has labored for all that he owns, realizes the worth of all that he has acquired, and is now giving his children educational advantages which will fit them for useful lives.

EDWARD W. DOLE is president of the Dole Floral Company, of Beatrice, this being an important corporation that has developed to large volume the floriculture enterprise established in a modest way by the mother of Mr. Dole, full data concerning the company and its honored founder being given on other pages of this work. Mr. Dole resides on his model little farm of thirty-six acres, which lies within the city limits of Beatrice, at the south, and he is one of the progressive and representative business men of Gage county and its fine capital city.

The lineage of the Dole family traces back to sterling English origin and the American progenitor of the branch represented by the Doles of Nebraska was Richard Dole, who was born in Bristol, England, in 1624. The founders of the family in England came from the ancient province of Brittany, France. It is to be presumed that Richard Dole accompanied his parents to the new world in the autumn of 1639, though records extant give no specific information in this respect. Richard Dole was thrice married and of his ten childen Joseph, born August 5, 1657, was next in line of direct genealogical line to him whose name introduces this review. Richard Dole settled at Amboy, Massachusetts, and he was eighty-one years of age at the time of his death. In a circumscribed article of this order there is no possibility of entering into details concerning the genealogical history of the Dole family, but it may consistently be said that in each successive generation the family has given to the nation men and women of worthy character and worthy achievement, while representatives of the name have been prominent not only in New England, that gracious cradle of much of our national history, but also in divers other states of the Union.

Edward W. Dole was born in Seward county, Nebraska, February 15, 1870, and is a son of Josiah G. and Sophia (Hooker) Dole, adequate review of whose lives is given

on other pages. At this juncture, however, it may be stated that Josiah G. Dole, who was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, December 25, 1825, joined the military police, or home guard, at the outbreak of the Civil war, was made first lieutenant and continued in active service until the close of the war. He came to Nebraska in 1867, the year that marked the admission of the state to the Union, and he settled in Seward county. In 1868-1869 he was there engaged in the manufacturing of brick, and some of the brick was used in the construction of the first brick chimneys in the city of Lincoln. In 1869 Mr. Dole wedded Miss Sophia Hooker, and they became the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this review is the eldest; Walter is now a resident of Bainbridge, Georgia; Anna is the wife of George M. Johnston, individually mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Ella S. is the wife of Frederick Van Boskirk, likewise specifically represented in this publication; and Elbert J. is a leading photographist in the city of Lincoln, this state.

Edward W. Dole was reared and educated in Seward county and in his youth gained familiarity with the conditions and influences of the pioneer era in the history of southeastern Nebraska. His father was associated with brick manufacturing about two years and then obtained a homestead in Seward county and turned his attention to farm enterprise. Eventually, after having developed a productive farm, he came to Gage county, and he passed the closing years of his life in the city of Beatrice, where his death occurred April 19, 1903. His wife was born in the state of New York, October 6, 1836, a daughter of Philip J. and Mary Ann (Derbyshire) Hooker, who came to Nebraska Territory in 1866 and established their residence in Seward county, as sterling pioneers, the father, two of the sons and two of the daughters, including Mrs. Dole, having each taken up a homestead claim in that county. Mr. Hooker died many years ago, when well advanced in years, and his widow was ninety-two years of age at the time of her death, in January, 1906.

The early educational advantages of Edward W. Dole included a year of study in the Beatrice high school, and thereafter he was for a time identified with the newspaper business — with the Beatrice *Daily Express*. In 1891 he and his brother Walter A. became associated with their mother in establishing a small greenhouse in Beatrice and initiating the enterprise that has since been developed into the extensive and well ordered business now conducted under the title of the Dole Floral Company, of which Edward W. Dole has been president from the time of its incorporation. Mr. Dole has been vital and progressive as a business man and loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, though he has never sought or held public office of any description. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife are active members of the Christian church in Beatrice.

April 26, 1890, recorded the marriage of Mr. Dole to Miss Ellen E. McCrea, daughter of Edgar and Julia (Dearsdorf) McCrea, who were early settlers in Seward county, Mr. McCrea having died at Milford, that county, November 23, 1917, and his widow being still a resident of that village. Mrs. Dole has two brothers and three sisters: John W. and Thomas W. are residents of Beatrice; Lydia E. is the wife of Christopher M. Miller, of this city; Florence D. is the wife of Jesse W. Dubbins, of Beatrice; and Fannie B. is the wife of S. D. Newman, of Milford, Seward county. Mr. and Mrs. Dole have an adopted daughter, Gladys Thelma, who is a member of their gracious home circle.

JAMES F. BOGGS, postmaster of the village of Filley, has been a resident of Gage county since he was a lad of fifteen years and is a son of that honored pioneer, Hon. Lewis B. Boggs, M. D., to whom a merited tribute is paid on other pages of this work, so that further reference to the family record is not demanded in the present connection. Mr. Boggs was born at North Manchester, Indiana, January 7, 1856, and he acquired his early education in the schools of Indiana and Gage county, Nebraska, to which latter state he came with his parents in the year 1871. In

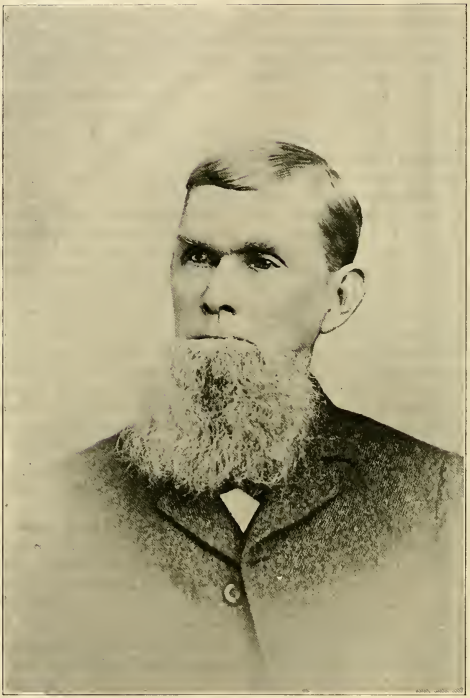
this county he became closely and effectively associated with his father in farm enterprise and in 1888 he assumed a position as clerk in a hardware establishment in the village of Filley. Later he here became associated with his brother, Dr. Charles S. Boggs, in the ownership of a well equipped drug store, and this alliance has since continued, the firm having recently erected a new building for the store and having an establishment of attractive order and the best of facilities and service.

Mr. Boggs identified himself with the Progressive party at the time of its organization and has been influential in its local councils in Gage county. He has held various municipal offices in the village of Filley and is now serving his second term as postmaster, his original appointment to this office having been made in 1911. He is one of the loyal and progressive citizens of his home village and county and his circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances. He is affilliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are active members of the Christian church at Filley.

The year 1882 recorded the marriage of Mr. Boggs to Miss Laura E. Faulder, daughter of the late David S. Faulder, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Boggs have two children: Ethel L. is the wife of Glenn W. Hildreth, who is (1918) superintendent of the public schools at Roseland, Adams county, Mrs. Hildreth being principal of the schools and both being teachers of distinctive talent and popularity; Edgar D. Boggs, who was born October 29, 1893, is a skilled machinist and is employed in the shops of the Burlington Railroad lines at Plattsmouth, Nebraska; the maiden name of his wife having been Ruby McPherson.

FIDILLO HUNTER DOBBS — The family from which Fidillo Hunter Dobbs was derived, as far as its history is known, begins with Sir Richards Dobbs, a Yorkshireman, who during the reign of Edward VI was Lord Mayor of London, and, according to Froude, a pillar of state. For his services to the young king he was knighted. In 1596 his nephew, John Dobbs, accompanied Sir Henry Dockwra, Lord-Treasurer of Ireland, to that island, and served as his deputy for the Province of Ulster. In 1603 he married Margaret, only child of John Dalway, of Ballyhill, County Antrim, a lady of distinction and fortune, and through this marriage was founded the well known Dobbs family of Irish history. The ancient seat of this family is Dobbs Castle, County Antrim, Ulster Province. Its present master and the present head of the family in Ireland is Montague William Edward Dobbs, Esquire, born September 28, 1844.

In America the family history begins with Governor Arthur Dobbs, born April 2, 1689, who was high sheriff of County Antrim and for many years member of parliament for Garrickfergus. He was appointed engineer and surveyor general of Ireland by Sir Robert Walpole, and in 1753 was sent out by George II as governor of the colony of North Carolina. He took office, at Newbern, November 1, 1754, and immediately adopted measures to conciliate the Indians. Treaties were made with the Catawabas and Cherokees, and, to protect western North Carolina from Indian depredations, he erected, armed and manned Fort Dobbs, on the south fork of the Yadkin. He established courts of justice in a number of districts where none had been before, and, himself a man of letters, he encouraged learning in the colony. In a book entitled "Lives of Distinguished Men of North Carolina," by J. W. Peele, (Raleigh, 1898,) is the following reference to his administration: "Progress of the style which marked the period of the American Revolution can be traced in North Carolina from the administration of Governor Dobbs". This has reference to the exalted style and purity of expression which characterizes the writings of the heroes of the Revolution. Governor Dobbs governed his colony wisely and well, raising it from a wretched state of poverty to a position of financial independence. Amongst other things he was remarkable as a colonizer. When he



FIDILLO HUNTER DOBBS
Pioneer resident of Gage County

MARY JANE DOBBS
Wife of Fidillo Hunter Dobbs

came to North Carolina the colony contained nine thousand inhabitants, but at the close of his eleven years' service as governor it had forty-five thousand.

Amongst the immigrants whom he induced to come to North Carolina were many of his immediate relatives, who came with the hope and expectation of appointment to office and other preferments. The Governor amassed large possessions and by a high-toned defense of the royal perogatives, against the rising tide of democratic resistance to royal claims, made many powerful enemies. Charges were preferred against him to the crown, including amongst other things nepotism, the unjust accumulation of wealth and a fixed determination on his part to locate the capital of the colony on his own land. In 1765, nearly ten years prior to the beginning of the Revolutionary war, he resigned his office to return to England and defend himself in the court of George III, his friend and patron, the learned George II, having died in 1760. Before he was able to adjust his affairs and take ship, he died, at the age of eighty-two years.

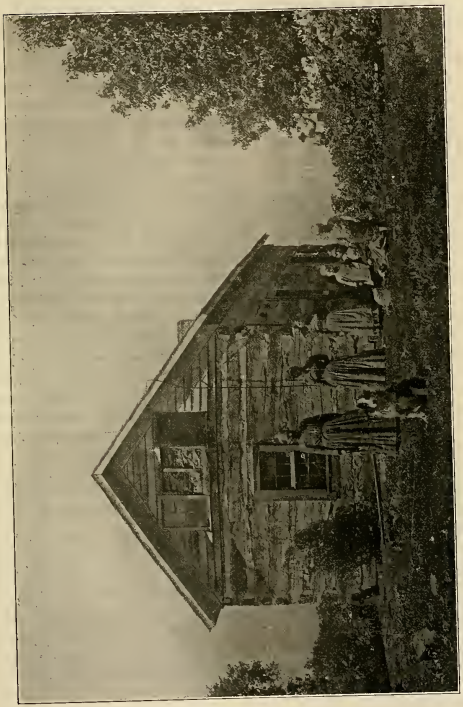
Governor Dobbs left numerous relatives in North Carolina, amongst them his sons Conway Richard and Edward Brice Dobbs, the latter being a member of his council. He also left a brother, described in his will as Rev. Dr. Richard Dobbs; also Richard Spaight, likewise a member of his council, and presumably the father of Richard Dobbs Spaight, a nephew of the Governor, who was afterward distinguished as a delegate from North Carolina to the convention which framed the federal constitution, and who afterward became the eighth governor of the state of North Carolina.

According to Gruppy, a recognized authority on Irish genealogy, a son Chesley was born to Governor Arthur Dobbs by his marriage with Ann, daughter and heir of Captain Osborne, of Timahoe, County of Kildare, relict of Captain Norbury. Burke, in the Irish Landed Gentry, states that there was issue of this marriage and that Conway Richard Dobbs took the inheritance, but fails to give the names of the other sons.

From some branch of this colonial family came Chesley Dobbs, the grandfather of Fidillo Hunter Dobbs. It is stated of him that he served seven years in the Revolutionary army under a Colonel William Washington, and afterward settled in Claiborne county, Tennessee. His son Joel, father of Fidillo Hunter Dobbs, was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina. He married Sallie Morgan, also a native of North Carolina, and a member of the well known southern family of that name. She was closely related to General John Morgan, the "Raider" of Civil war fame. Their marriage took place in Claiborne county, Tennessee, in 1815. Shortly afterward the family removed to Casey county, Kentucky, where Fidillo Hunter Dobbs was born on the 4th day of March, 1823. The other children of this marriage were Hugh H., Russell L., Bethene, Anderson, Orlean, William C., Archibald and Sallie. In 1828, the mother died, and in 1829 Joel Dobbs contracted a second marriage, with Elizabeth Langville. From this union there were born seven children, of whom five reached maturity: some attained wealth and prominence in eastern Illinois.

In 1830 Joel Dobbs removed his family from Kentucky to Putman county, Indiana, where he located near Greencastle, on the great national highway then being constructed across the state from Terre Haute to Cincinnati. In 1837 the family, except Hugh, Russell, Bethene and Anderson, all of whom remained in Indiana, removed to the Ozark country in southwestern Missouri and located in the valley of the White river, in Taney county, where, in 1842, the father, Joel Dobbs, died.

Fidillo Hunter Dobbs acquired in the common schools of Indiana and Missouri, a good, unable education for those times, and when twenty-one years of age he became a schoolmaster, pursuing this useful occupation five years. On August 1, 1847, at Forsyth, Taney county, Missouri, he married Mary Jane Schullenbarger, the eldest daughter of Jacob and Susan (Simeon) Schullenbarger; she was one of his pupils in a district school in the Ozark mountains. They became the parents of eleven children, William Jacob, Hugh Jackson, Susan Catherine, Russell Lane,



PIONEER RESIDENCE OF FIDILLO HUNTER DOBBS

Sarah Jane, Louisa Florizelle, Joel Bracken, Josephine, John Abram, Thomas Francis and Lucy Ann. All grew to maturity and are still living excepting Susan Catherine, who died in Andrew county, Missouri, of an infantile disease, in 1842, aged thirteen months.

In May, 1852, the family moved from southwestern to northwestern Missouri, where Fidillo Hunter Dobbs purchased a farm of eighty-seven acres on the Nodaway river, ten miles southwest of Savannah, the county seat of Andrew county. In March, 1856, he sold his farm and moved to a farm on the Hundred and Two river, in the edge of Grand Prairie, eight miles northeast of Savannah.

In August, 1858, he came to the new territory of Nebraska, and under the pre-emption law of the country he located a claim in Section twenty-three, Rockford township, Gage county. He built a round-log cabin on his claim, rived clapboards to cover it, mowed with a scythe and stacked five tons of prairie hay, and returned to Missouri to spend the winter of 1858-1859. He left Missouri on the first day of March with his family, consisting of his wife and six children, and arrived in Gage county March 12, 1859. The following May he sold his first claim and bought of George W. Stark his pre-emption rights to the northwest quarter of Section fourteen in Rockford township. On August 5, 1863, at Brownville, Nebraska, he made homestead entry of this tract of land at the government land office, he being the forty-seventh entryman under the homestead law. This tract of land constituted the family homestead until 1906, when this pioneer husband and wife left their old home and came to Beatrice to spend the brief remnant of their days.

Fidillo Hunter Dobbs died at his home in Beatrice, from a stroke of paralysis, on the 16th day of July, 1907, aged eighty-four years, four months, twelve days.

His beloved wife, Mary Jane Dobbs, survived him but a few months, dying at her home in Beatrice March 7, 1908, aged seventy-six years, six months, seventeen days. They lie side by side in Evergreen Home cemetery and their resting place is marked by a monument. As the fruit of their marriage, there were living at the time of their death, ten children, fifty-four grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Their living posterity now includes ten children, fifty-five grandchildren, fifty-one great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren,—a total of one hundred and twenty persons.

Throughout his long life Fidillo Hunter Dobbs was an active and a useful member of society. He was by occupation a farmer but found time to take an intelligent interest in public affairs. From 1862 to 1866, inclusive, he was a member of the board of county commissioners of Gage county, and with William Tyler and Fordyce Roper, the other members of the county board at that time, and John W. Prey, one of the commissioners of Lancaster county, adjusted the affairs of old Clay county after its partition between Lancaster and Gage.

The home of Fidillo Hunter and Mary Jane Dobbs was always known far and wide for its open hospitality. All who came were welcome and for the entertainment of strangers it is doubtful if he ever accepted willingly a cent of compensation. In 1866 they erected a hewed-log, story-and-a-half house; though in a ruined condition, it still exists on the old homestead. Here for many years

> The great fires up its chimney roared,
> The stranger feasted at its board.

This was their residence until 1885, when they erected, near the northeast corner of their homestead, a commodious frame house which formed their domicile while they remained on the farm. Both these homes were centers for the social, educational and religious life of the community, and, covering a radius of many miles, the spirit of this home was a potent influence for the best there is in humanity. By their simple, unostentatious and helpful lives, Fidillo Hunter and Mary Jane Dobbs endeared themselves to hundreds of the pioneers of Gage county, and if "to live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" they are assured of immortality.

JOHN B. REIFF has resided since 1889 on his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres and is situated in Section 21, Rockford township. He was born in Woodford county, Illinois, February 10, 1863, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Balley) Reiff, the former of who was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1828, and the latter of whom was born in Ohio, October 5, 1837. The death of the father occurred July 3, 1903, and that of the mother on the 22d of May, 1917.

Joseph Reiff was a son of Jacob Reiff, who passed his entire life in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and who was a farmer by vocation, he having been a descendant of one of three brothers who came from Germany and settled in the Old Keystone state in the pioneer era of its history. The wife of Joseph Reiff was a daughter of Yost Balley, who came from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, whence he later removed to Ohio, and finally he established his home in Illinois, in the pioneer days, his death having there occurred in 1877. In 1848 Joseph Reiff became a resident of Woodford county, Illinois, and finally he purchased land and turned his attention to independent farm enterprise. He eventually accumulated four hundred and forty acres of land and he so improved the property that when he finally sold the same he was able to dispose of the land at a rate varying from eighty to eighty-five dollars an acre. In 1889 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased five hundred and sixty acres of land, much of which he later gave to his children, who were five in number and three of whom are still living: Samuel is a retired carpenter and builder residing at McPherson, Kansas, in which state he established his home in 1888 and in which he owns valuable farm property; John B., of this sketch, is the next younger; and Elizabeth, who is the widow of Ezra P. Steel, resides at Kidder, Missouri. The parents were earnest members of the Church of the Brethren and in politics the father was an independent Republican during the later period of his life. He achieved a large measure of temporal prosperity and did much to foster civic and industrial progress after he had initiated the development of his farm properties in Gage county.

John B. Reiff is indebted to the public schools of Illinois for his early educational discipline, which was supplemented by higher studies in Mount Morris College, that state. After having been for four years engaged in independent farming in his native commonwealth he came to Gage county and purchased his present well improved farm, a property that has been transferred but three times since it was a part of the government domain, the substantial and commodious house on the homestead having been erected in the '60s and showing the throughness which attended building operations in that pioneer period.

In 1885 Mr. Reiff married Miss Susan Gish, who likewise was a native of Woodford county, Illinois, and she passed to eternal rest January 16, 1897. Of this union were born five children: Carson is a farmer in Rockford township, as is also Charles; Ida is the wife of Lee Divine, a farmer near Blue Springs, this county; Oma is employed as a skilled stenographer in the city of Denver, Colorado; and Estella is the wife of Robert E. Harris, of Pleasanton, Buffalo county, Nebraska.

In 1899 Mr. Reiff contracted a second marriage, when Miss Martha Fink became his wife. She is a daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Watenberger) Fink, both natives of Tennessee, where the father passed his entire life, Mrs. Fink having passed the closing years of her life in the home of her daughter Martha, Mrs. Reiff. Mr. and Mrs. Reiff have four children, — Hilda, Joseph, Elva and Ola.

In politics Mr. Reiff is a Republican, and he is now serving as justice of the peace, and as a member of the school board of his district. He is a director of the Blue Springs Telephone Company and a member of the Crop Improvement Association of Gage county. He and his wife are zealous members of the Brethren church of Rockford township, and he is secretary of the same. He is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Elevator Company of Holmesville, is now the owner of a fine landed estate of

two hundred and forty acres and is one of the substantial farmers of the county, — a citizen who commands unqualified popular esteem.

JOSEPH COOPER properly finds recognition in this history by reason of his standing as one of the progressive exponents of farm industry in Gage county, his home farm being in Section 34, Riverside township. Mr. Cooper was born at Stratford, Perth county, Province of Ontario, Canada, and the date of his nativity was February 12, 1881. He is a son of Joseph Cooper, who likewise was a native of Stratford, where he was born July 13, 1849. Joseph Cooper, Sr., followed the business of brick manufacturing in his native province until 1886, when he came with his family into the United States and engaged in the same line of industrial enterprise at Maryville, Missouri. There he continued his activities in this field of productive enterprise until 1892, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence in the city of Beatrice. Here he developed a prosperous business as a manufacturer of brick and he established and conducted also a brick yard at Pawnee City. Of both of these enterprises he continued the executive head until his death, which occurred October 9, 1900, and he was known and honored as a successful business man and loyal and progressive citizen. His widow, whose maiden name was Isabel Wharram, was born at Bayfield, Ontario, Canada, on the 28th of December, 1858, and she now makes her home with her son Joseph, subject of this review. Joseph and Isabel Cooper became the parents of the following named children: Rosetta, George R., Rachel, Lillian, Joseph, Jr., Mary, William, John, Frances, Harry, Ethel B. and Fred A. Rosetta is deceased; Mary is the wife of C. Fritz, of Midland township; William is a resident of Beatrice; John lives in Riverside township; Frances is the wife of B. Connelly, of Beatrice; Harry is a resident of Riverside township; and Ethel B. and Fred A. remain in Beatrice.

Joseph Cooper, the immediate subject of this sketch, was five years of age when the family came from Canada to the United States, and he attended the public schools of Missouri and those of Beatrice, Nebraska, including the high school in the Gage county metropolis. As a young man he assisted his father in the manufacturing of brick, and in 1900 he purchased forty acres of land in Riverside township, where he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In the year 1910 he enlarged the scope of his enterprise by leasing a larger tract of land, and five years later he purchased the quarter-section of land where he now resides. By following progressive methods in tilling the soil, rotating crops, and planting those cereals best adapted to soil and climate, and by feeding cattle for market quite extensively he has been more than ordinarily successful. He is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres and leases an equal amount. He makes a specialty of putting up prairie hay, of which product he markets hundred of tons every year. Mr. Cooper has erected four sets of buldings on his land and his progressiveness is further shown by his commendable interest in all measures advanced for the public good. Mr. Cooper is still a young man, and as he is making good use of his opportunities and is industrious and enterprising, his success and prosperity are well merited.

GEORGE O. RAINS conducts in the city of Beatrice a substantial business in the sale of leading and popular types of automobiles, and is agent for the Oakland, the Paige, the Dodge and the Maxwell cars. He owns the well equipped building occupied by his salesrooms, on South Sixth street. He is essentially one of the progressive business men and representative citizens of the county that has been his home from his boyhood and in which he has achieved through his own ability and efforts a large and worthy success.

Mr. Rains was born in Madison county, Indiana, on the 29th of January, 1871, and is a son of Joab F. and Mary (Rodecap) Rains, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia. The father was identified with agricultural pursuits in the old Hoosier

state until 1883, when he came with his family to Nebraska and settled in Nemaha county. In the following year, however, he came to Gage county, where he purchased a partly improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in Riverside township. With the passing years he developed this homestead into one of the fine farms of this section of the state and he was one of the substantial and honored citizens of the county, — a man who contributed his quota to civic and industrial progress and who commanded the confidence and good will of all who knew him. He continued to reside on his farm until his death. His wife is still living and is a consistent member of the Brethern church. In politics Mr. Rains was a stalwart Democrat.

George O. Rains gained his rudimentary education in the schools of his native state and was a lad of about twelve years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. On the homestead farm in Gage county, this state, he was reared to adult age, early beginning to assist his father in the arduous work of the farm and in the meanwhile making good use of the advantages of the public schools of the locality. After leaving the parental home he rented land and engaged in farming in an independent way, and later he did successful work as a traveling salesman, his activities as a salesman of agricultural implements having covered a period of about five years, within which he traveled through an assigned territory that included many of the counties of southeastern Nebraska. Finally he established himself independently in the implement business at Beatrice, and with this line of enterprise he here continued his successful association for several years, after which, in 1910, he established his present thriving business, which he has developed into one of the most important of the kind in this section of the state.

Vigorous and unremitting in his application to business, Mr. Rains has not hedged in his interests with mere personal advancement but has shown himself loyal and liberal in his civic attitude, and while he has had no political ambitions he is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party. He is affiliated with the camp of Modern Woodmen of America in the village of Ellis, this county, and he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church.

In the year 1891, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Rains to Miss Emma E. Harnes, who was born in the state of Iowa but who was a girl at the time of her parents' removal to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Rains have four children, — Letha, who is the wife of Allen O. Weigel, a prosperous farmer in Sicily township, this county; William, who is married and resides in Beatrice, where he is engaged as an automobile salesman; Everett and his wife likewise maintain their residence at Beatrice and he is clerk in a grocery; and Robert, who celebrated his nineteenth birthday anniversary in 1917, remains at the parental home.

DAVID S. FAULDER became one of the pioneers of Gage county when, in 1878, he settled on a farm in Hanover township, his homestead place comprising one hundred and sixty acres. He was born in Washington county, Maryland, January 9, 1832, a son of Samuel and Margaret (Rohr) Faulder, natives respectively of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The lineage of the Faulder family traces back to English origin, John and Hannah Faulder, parents of Samuel, having come to America in 1794 and having settled in Maryland, where they passed the remainder of their lives, John Faulder having been a successful school teacher and having been a tailor by trade. Samuel Faulder was born in the year 1798 and in his youth he learned the trade of cooper, besides which he early became identified with agricultural pursuits. He became the owner of a good farm in Maryland, near the Pennsylvania line, and there his death occurred in 1872, his wife having passed away in 1858, and their three children having been Mary, David S. and Margaret.

David S. Faulder acquired his early education in the schools of his native state and as a youth he learned the cooper's trade under the direction of his father. He followed his trade as a vocation for a period of about ten

years. In 1853 he wedded Miss Elizabeth Snyder, who was born in Maryland, February 27, 1833, a daughter of Simon and Agnes Snyder. After his marriage Mr. Faulder continued to be engaged in farm enterprise in his native commonwealth until 1873, when he removed with his family to Ogle county, Illinois. There he leased a farm and there he continued his alliance with agricultural pursuits for five years. In 1878 he came with his family to Nebraska and settled in Gage county, as before noted. Here he reclaimed and improved a valuable farm estate of two hundred and forty acres, in Hanover township, and his success made him one of the substantial citizens of the county, even as his sterling character gained to him inviolable esteem. In 1891 Mr. Faulder retired from his farm and removed to the city of Beatrice, and there his death occurred September 13, 1917, his widow being still a resident of that city. Mr. Faulder was a stalwart Republican in politics and served many years as justice of the peace in Hanover township. His religious faith was that of the Christian church, of which his widow likewise is a devoted member. Of their eleven children nine are living: Jerome S. is associated with a mercantile concern in Beatrice and remains with his widowed mother; Samuel R. is deceased; Laura Ellen is the wife of James F. Boggs, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Mary C. is the wife of Dr. Charles S. Boggs, of Filley, who is made the subject of a specific sketch on other pages of this work; Charles remains with his mother; Anna is the wife of Dr. M. H. Blackburn, of Princeton, Illinois; Ira M. is a merchant in the city of Beatrice; Irving is a farmer in Riverside township; Lucy E. is the wife of A. H. Voortman, of Beatrice; and two children died in childhood, prior to the family removal from Maryland.

DRS. BURT L. & CLEMENS A. SPELLMAN. — With one exception the Spellman brothers have been established in the successful practice of dentistry in the city of Beatrice longer than all others of their professional contemporaries in Gage county and they have built up a practice whose broad and representative scope bears evidence of their proficiency in a vocation that is both a scientific profession and a mechanical art. The brothers have been associated in the practice of their profession at Beatrice since the summer of 1898, in which year both were graduated in the Chicago College of Dentistry, in the city of Chicago, each receiving from this institution the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Their fraternal and professional alliance has proved most effective and they maintain offices of attractive appointments and the best of modern facilities in both the operative and laboratory departments. The brothers have been residents of Gage county since boyhood and are members of a family that can consistently claim a measure of pioneer distinction, as their parents came from Iowa and established their home in Gage county nearly forty years ago.

Dr. Burt L. Spellman was born at Atlantic, Cass county, Iowa, on the 14th of January, 1873, and is a son of William N. and Louisa (Gleason) Spellman, whose marriage was solemnized in that state. William N. Spellman was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, and was a son of Clemens Spellman, who likewise was a native of the old Buckeye state, where his parents settled in the pioneer days. From Ohio Clemens Spellman eventually removed with his family to Illinois, where he passed the remainder of his life, his age at the time of death having been eighty-six years. William N. Spellman continued his association with farm industry in Illinois until about the year 1866, when he removed to Iowa. There he became one of the progressive and successful farmers of Cass county, and he was also a pioneer in the operation of threshing outfits in that section of the Hawkeye state. In 1878 Mr. Spellman came to Nebraska in an attempt to apprehend a threshing employe who had stolen and made away with a team of his horses. Incidental to this visit he became so impressed with the attractions and resources of Gage county that he determined to establish his residence within its borders. He returned to his home in Iowa and about six months later, in the same year, came with his family

to this county, where he not only became the owner of valuable farm property but also achieved marked success in the buying and shipping of grain. At one time he owned a half interest in a flour mill at Blue Springs, his associate in the ownership and operation of this mill having been the late Dr. Gumaer. He was about sixty-four years of age at the time of his death and his wife, who is still living and resides in Beatrice, is sixty-three years of age in 1918. The only surviving children are the two sons to whom this review is dedicated. Mr. Spellman was a stalwart supporter of the principles of the Republican party, he held membership in the Presbyterian church, as does also his widow, and he was prominently identified with local organizations of the Masonic fraternity. He served as worshipful master of Tyre Lodge, No. 85, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, at Blue Springs, and his Masonic affiliations included also his active membership in the commandery of Knights Templars at Beatrice and the Temple of the Mystic Shrine in the city of Lincoln.

Dr. Burt L. Spellman profited fully by the advantages offered in the public schools of the village of Blue Springs. In 1895 both he and his brother, Clemens A., entered the Chicago College of Dentistry, and both were there graduated in 1898, as previously noted in this context. Prior to thus preparing himself for the profession in which he has achieved unequivocal success Dr. Spellman had given three years of effective service as a teacher in the district schools of Gage county. The brothers began the practice of their profession at Wymore, this county, but four months later they removed to Beatrice, the metropolis of the county, on the 5th of August, 1898, since which time they have been here associated in the successful practice of their profession, with a distinctively representative clientele. For seventeen years they maintained their offices in a building at Sixth and Ella streets, and they then removed to their present well appointed quarters, in the Baker building, likewise at Sixth and Ella streets.

Dr. Burt L. Spellman gives his political allegiance to the Republican party, he and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church, and his Masonic affiliations are with Beatrice Lodge, No. 26, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons; Livingston Chapter, No. 10, Royal Arch Masons; Mount Herman Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templars; and Sesostris Temple of the Mystic Shrine, in the city of Lincoln.

In the year 1901 Dr. Spellman wedded Miss Roza Barnum, who was born and reared in Gage county and who is a daughter of the late H. Sizer Barnum. Her farther became one of the earliest permanent settlers in this county, where he established his residence in May, 1859, nearly a decade before the admission of Nebraska to the Union. Mr. Barnum was born in the city of Buffalo, New York, November 11, 1837, and in the following year his parents, Hiram and Irena H. (Howard) Barnum removed to the former's old home in his native state of Ohio, where Hiram Barnum became a representative lawyer and a prominent and influential citizen: he was born in Trumbull county, in 1811, and passed the closing years of his life on a farm in that county, where he died at the age of seventy-six years, his wife surviving him by a number of years. Hiram Barnum was a son of Eli Barnum, who was a native of Danbury, Connecticut, and who became one of the earliest settlers in Trumbull county, Ohio.

H. Sizer Barnum, as before stated, came to Gage county in 1859, and at the time when he established his residence in Blue Springs township there were only three other families within its borders. He developed one of the productive farms of that part of the county and here continued his activities until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, on the 1st of September, 1861, he enlisted in the First Battalion of Nebraska Calvary, being later transferred to the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, and continuing in service in Kentucky and Tennessee until November 11, 1862, when physical disability necessitated his discharge. Thereafter he remained on his farm until 1871, when he removed with his family to the village of Blue Springs, where for many years thereafter he

was engaged in the livery business and in the breeding of fine horses. He became one of the most substantial and influential pioneer citizens of the county and was called upon to serve in various local offices of public trust. In this connection it should be noted that he was elected register of deeds for the county before the formal organization of the county had been effected, his certificate of election, carefully preserved by the family, bearing date of July 16, 1859. Mr. Barnum was living on East Court street, Beatrice at the time of his death and his wife, whose maiden name was Myra H. Rappleye, passed away when about seventy-two years of age. Of their four children three are living, and of the number Mrs. Spellman is the youngest. Dr. and Mrs. Spellman have two children, — Kathryn and Marguerite.

Dr. Clemens A. Spellman was born at Atlantic, Iowa, on the 8th of September, 1875, and was not yet three years of age at the time of the family removal to Gage county. Here he received in his boyhood excellent educational training under the direction of Professor Blake, one of the early and able representatives of the pedagogic profession in this county, and in 1892 he was graduated in the high school at Blue Springs. In a preceding paragraph it has been noted that in 1898 he and his brother were graduated in one of the leading dental colleges in the city of Chicago, but prior to this he had taught two years in the district schools of his home county and for one year had been associated with his father's grain business. In this article adequate data have already been given relative to his successful professional career. Both of the brothers have been specially active and appreciative in connection with their Masonic affiliations, as is indicated by the statement that each is past master of his lodge, past high priest of his chapter and past eminent commander of his commandery of Knights Templars. Dr. Clemens A. Spellman is likewise past patron of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which his wife is a leading member, she being, in 1917-1918, conductress of the Nebraska grand chapter of this order. The Doctor and his brother are both affiliated with the Phi Omega dental fraternity, and Dr. Burt L. Spellman was secretary of the local organization while a student in the Chicago College of Dentistry.

Dr. Clemens A. Spellman is found aligned as a stalwart in the ranks of the Republican party and while he has had no ambition for public office he has manifested his civic loyalty through his effective service as a member of the board of education of Beatrice, a position of which he is the incumbent at the time of this writing. His Masonic affiliations include membership in Sesostris Temple of the Mystic Shrine, in the city of Lincoln, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Presbyterian church at Beatrice, in which he is serving as deacon, as well as superintendent of the Sunday school. On the 27th of September, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Clemens A. Spellman to Miss Carrie M. Schlosser, who was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of Jesse L. Schlosser, subject of specific mention on other pages of this work. Dr. and Mrs. Spellman have two children, — Helen and Clemens Eugene.

LEROY BRUGH, who is one of the representative farmers of the younger generation in Midland township, is a native son of Nebraska and a member of a well known family that was here founded in the territorial days, his paternal grandfather having been one of the earliest settlers of Dodge county. Mr. Brugh was born on a farm near Wahoo, judicial center of Saunders county, Nebraska, on the 18th of April, 1881, and is a son of Jacob A. and Laura E. (Davis) Brugh, the former of whom was born at Hartford City, Indiana, August 29, 1854, and the latter of whom was born in the state of Indiana, a daughter of Andrew J. and Nancy (Cowan) Davis. Of the children of Jacob A. and Laura E. (Davis) Brugh the following brief record is given: Mabel died when about six years of age; Maude is the wife of Elof Pierson, of Oakdale, Antelope county, Nebraska; Leroy, of this review, was the next in order of birth;

Dr. Spangler Brugh, a representative physician and surgeon of Gage county, is engaged in the practice of his profession at Beatrice; Nancy is the wife of George A. Girl, of Rockford township, this county; Arthur is married and conducts a hotel at Holmesville, this county; Milo is a resident of Beatrice; and one son died in infancy. The marriage of the parents was solemnized December 5, 1875.

Jacob A. Brugh is a son of Spangler and Nancy (Shick) Brugh, and he was seven years of age when his parents came to Nebraska Territory, in 1861, and established their home in Dodge county, where the father took up land under the terms of a squatter's right. About three years later Spangler Brugh sold this squatter's claim and removed with his family to Fremont, which is now a thriving little city of about ten thousand population, the judicial center of Dodge county. When Mr. Brugh there took up his abode the town was represented materially in one store and three or four houses, and he thus became virtually one of the founders of the present attractive city. Upon coming to Nebraska with his family Mr. Brugh made the journey by railroad to St. Joseph, Missouri, from which point he came with wagon and ox team to Dodge county. Later he engaged in freighting with ox teams between Omaha and Denver, in which profitable venture he was assisted by the late Herman Kountz, who was at that time engaged in the banking business in Omaha and who furnished him with the requisite freighting outfit. Mr. Brugh continued operations as a frontier freighter until the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad, and he then engaged in the hotel business at Fremont. In this connection he conducted feed yards in which accommodations were provided for horses and wagons of settlers and travelers. He constructed a large shed of cottonwood poles, with straw roof, and this shed would accommodate seventy-five teams, a charge of one dollar a night being made for each team. About the year 1875 Spangler Brugh removed with his family to Saunders county, where he remained about fifteen years and greatly amplified his pioneer experiences. There he took up land and engaged in farm enterprise, and after his retirement from active life he returned to his old home in Fremont, where he died on the 5th of February, 1917, at the age of eighty years, his wife having passed away October 24, 1912, and the names of both meriting enduring place on the roster of the honored pioneers of Nebraska. They became the parents of two sons and three daughters, Jacob A. having been the elder son; Spangler M. is now a resident of Pueblo, Colorado; Mary E. became the wife of Leo Snyder and was a resident of Arlington, Washington county, this state, at the time of her death; Cora M. became the wife of George Coddington and died at Fremont, Dodge county; and Miss Edna is a resident of Fremont.

Jacob A. Brugh was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer epoch in Nebraska history and received his early education in the schools of Dodge county. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Saunders county, and there he was engaged in farm enterprise until 1887, when he removed with his family to Colorado. There he remained eleven years, at the expiration of which he returned to Nebraska, and he and his wife now reside at Holmesville, Gage county, where they have a pleasant home and where he is living retired.

Leroy Brugh was a lad of six years at the time of the family removal to Colorado, where he was reared to adult age and given the advantages of the public schools. In 1898 he returned with his parents to his native state, and he has since been actively and successfully identified with agricultural and live-stock industry in Gage county, his operations being carried on somewhat extensively, as he is farming a well improved estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Section 21, Midland township, and about three miles distant from Beatrice, on rural mail route No. 4. Mr. Brugh is an energetic and progressive exponent of farm enterprise, a good business man and a loyal young citizen. He is a Democrat in politics but has never been troubled with any desire for public office.

February 26, 1902, recorded the marriage

MRS. STURMEUS PFEFFERMAN

STURMEUS PFEFFERMAN

of Mr. Brugh to Miss May Warford, daughter of Louis M. Warford, of Rockford township, to whom is accorded individual mention on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Brugh have three children: Dwight, Viola and Hazel, all of whom are attending school.

CHARLES S. BOGGS, M. D., who is engaged in the active practice of his profession at Filley, is essentially one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county and is upholding in both a professional and civic way the high prestige of the name which he bears, his father, Hon. Lewis B. Boggs, M. D., having been one of the leading pioneer physicians and influential citizens of the county and being made the subject of a merited tribute on other pages of this publication, so that further record concerning the family history is not here demanded.

Dr. Charles S. Boggs was born at North Manchester, Indiana, on the 19th of June, 1857, and he acquired his early education in the public schools of the old Hoosier state. He was a lad of fourteen years at the time of the family removal to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1872, and here he continued his studies until he had completed the curriculum of the Beatrice high school, in which he made a splendid record as a student and was at the head of his class in scholarship. After leaving the high school Dr. Boggs gave four years of most effective service as a teacher in the schools of this part of Nebraska and he then followed the trend of ambition by beginning the work of preparation for the profession that has been significantly dignified and honored by the services of his father. He entered the medical department of the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, where he continued his technical studies one year. He then entered the medical department of the University of Nebraska, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1884 and from which he received his well won degree of Doctor of Medicine. He forthwith became associated with his father in practice, with residence and professional headquarters in the village of Filley, and here he has continued his earnest and effective labors during the intervening period of more than thirty years, his success and popularity showing the high estimate placed upon him and also giving assurance that he has kept closely in touch with the advances made in medical and surgical science. The Doctor has a large and representative practice, is actively identified with the Gage County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and in connection with his professional activities he conducts a well ordered drug store at Filley, he having recently erected a handsome new building for his store.

In 1882 was recorded the marriage of Dr. Boggs to Miss Mary C. Faulder, daughter of David S. Faulder, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work. Dr. and Mrs. Boggs became the parents of one daughter, Mabel, whose death occurred when she was twenty years of age.

In politics Dr. Boggs is found aligned with the Progressive party, and he has shown his civic loyalty by many years of service as a member of the school board of Filley, as well as by service as a member of the village council. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and his wife holds membership in the Christian church.

STURMEUS PFEFFERMAN owns and occupies, at 1301 Ella street, one of the pleasant homes in the city of Beatrice, where he is now living retired, after many years of earnest and productive endeavor in connection with farm enterprise. He was born in Germany, December 21, 1834, a son of Michael Hefferman, who passed his entire life in Germany and who was engaged in the mercantile business for many years. The subject of this review was reared and educated in his native land, where also he learned the tailor's trade in his youth, but he never gave any considerable attention to his trade after having acquired the same. In 1861 he immigrated to America and settled in Livingston county, Illinois, where he was employed at farm work until the spring of 1862. He then gave evidence of his earnest loyalty to the land of his

adoption by tendering his aid in defense of the Union. He enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he took part in numerous engagements and with which he accompanied General Sherman's forces on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea. He was fortunate in escaping wounds, but it is worthy of note that on one occasion, while in a dense brush, he felt an impact which he believed to have been made by a twig or bush, but upon later investigation he found a bullet hole in his belt, showing that his escape had been narrow. After the close of the war Mr. Pfefferman continued his residence in Livingston county, Illinois, until 1870, when he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He purchased land in Lincoln township and with the passing years reclaimed and developed one of the fine farm properties of the county. He still owns this valuable landed estate, of six hundred and forty acres, and his sons have active management of its operation.

Mr. Pfefferman remained on his farm until 1897, when he removed to Beatrice, where he has since lived retired and where he is most fully enjoying the gracious rewards that are so justly his due. In politics Mr. Pfefferman supports the Republican party and he was reared in the faith of the Catholic church.

In December, 1866, Mr. Pfefferman wedded Miss Sarah A. Thomas. She was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, October 17, 1837, a daughter of John and Mary Thomas, who passed their entire lives in the old Keystone state, Mr. Thomas having been a miller by trade and vocation. Of the ten children Mrs. Pfefferman and her twin brother, Emanuel, were the youngest. Mrs. Pfefferman passed to the life eternal on the 21st of January, 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Pfefferman became the parents of five sons and one daughter and concerning them brief record is here entered: George, who was born December 12, 1867, is a successful farmer in Gage county; Lewis, who was born November 14, 1869, died in 1908; Edward C. was born February 17, 1871; Albert C. was born January 7, 1873; Jennie B., the only daughter, was the next in order of birth; and Sturmeus, Jr., was born April 24, 1877.

FRANK J. CHITTENDEN. — Under the modern system of agricultural and live-stock industry the application of energy and good business policies insures success, and this is being significantly demonstrated in the activities of Mr. Chittenden, who is a young man of progressiveness and utmost diligence and who is being prospered in his enterprise as a farmer. He is operating a farm of two hundred acres in Clatonia township, — a property which he rents from Henry Albert, a substantial citizen individually mentioned on other pages. The success of Mr. Chittenden is the more pleasing to record by reason of his being a native of Gage county. He was born in Highland township, on the 28th of December, 1881, and is a son of Warren E. and Emma (Pitman) Chittenden, concerning whom more specific mention is made elsewhere in this publication.

Frank J. Chittenden supplemented the discipline of the district schools by attending the high school in the village of Clatonia and by a course in the Northwestern Business College, at Beatrice. Reared to the sturdy training of the farm, Mr. Chittenden has found the industries of agriculture and stock-growing well worthy of his continued allegiance, but he held for three years a clerical position in the office of the treasurer of Gage county. He resigned this position in 1908, and thereafter rented a farm in Highland township until 1910, in May of which latter year he effected the lease of the large and well improved farm which now receives his supervision and in connection with which he is meeting with substantial success. In politics he is unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party and he takes loyal interest in community affairs, as a liberal and public-spirited citizen.

November 18, 1908, recorded the marriage of Mr. Chittenden to Miss Effie J. Albert, who

was born and reared in Clatonia township, a daughter of Henry Albert. Mr. and Mrs. Chittenden delight in extending to their many friends the hospitality of their pleasant home, which is brightened further by the presence of their winsome little daughter, Gertrude E. They are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church in the village of Clatonia.

JACOB S. RUTHERFORD. — The ultimate and consistent reward that should prove the crown of years of earnest and effective toil and endeavor is the gracious retirement and compassing prosperity that may be had by men and women who have arrived at the stage on life's journey when the shadows begin to lengthen from the crimson west, where the sunset gates are open wide. Such reward has been granted to the sterling and honored Gage county pioneer whose name initiates this paragraph, and his name and achievement have been of distinctive influence in connection with the civic and material development and progress of Gage county and especially of its judicial center, the fair city of Beatrice, where he is now living virtually retired. He has held various local positions of public trust, including that of mayor of Beatrice, and further honor attaches to him for the service which he gave in his youth as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. As a venerable pioneer and also as a citizen who has been prominent and influential in the communal affairs of Gage county, Mr. Rutherford merits a definite tribute in this history.

Jacob S. Rutherford was born in Sauk county, Wisconsin, on the 6th of April, 1846, a date that gives assurance that his parents were numbered among the pioneer settlers of that section of the Badger state. He is a son of James B. and Blanche (Slentz) Rutherford, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Ohio. their marriage having been solemnized at Mount Carmel, Illinois. From the latter state they went to Wisconsin and became pioneers of Sauk county, the father having there engaged in the development of a farm and having also operated a grist mill. In 1853 he became one of the argonauts in California, where he engaged in the mining of gold and other lines of enterprise, with a fair degree of success, and where he remained until 1856, when he returned to Wisconsin. In the latter state he continued his residence until the spring of 1866, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and, in April of that year, established his residence on a pioneer farm which he had purchased the preceding year, this old homestead being one mile north of the present village of Pickrell. He instituted the development of his farm, besides eventually adding to his landed property by taking up a homestead claim. He continued as one of the prosperous farmers and valued citizens of the county until his death, at the age of seventy-two years, his wife having been fifty-six years of age at the time of her demise.

Jacob S. Rutherford, the immediate subject of this review, acquired his early education in the pioneer schools of Wisconsin and was fifteen years of age at the outbreak of the Civil war, so that he was ineligible for enlistment at that stage. His youthful patriotism, however, was not long to be curbed, for on the 3d of July, 1864, as a sturdy youth of eighteen years, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he continued in active service until victory had crowned the Union arms, in the spring of the following year. He took part in various engagements, including the battle of Nashville, where he received a flesh wound in the side. While with his regiment participating in the seige of Vicksburg Mr. Rutheford fell a victim to an ignoble foe, as he was attacked so severely with measles as to become delirious, the result being that when he resumed normal control of his mental faculties he found himself in a barracks hospital in the city of New Orleans. He had not yet recovered his wonted vigor when the war came to a close, and he received his honorable discharge while stationed at Demopolis, Alabama.

After the close of the war Mr. Rutherford returned to Wisconsin and the next spring he

accompanied his parents on their removal to Gage county, Nebraska. For a few years thereafter he gave his attention principally to operating saw mills at Beatrice and to freighting from Gage county to Kearney, this state, and also into Colorado. Finally his mechanical ability gained to him prestige as a skilled artisan at the carpenter's trade, and eventually he developed a substantial and successful business as a contractor and builder. He was concerned in the erection of many buildings in this county and certain of the important buildings in Beatrice stand as enduring monuments to his skill — notably those of the Beatrice National Bank and the public library, besides which he was the contractor for the larger part of the excellent street paving of this city. He continued his successful activities as a contractor until 1915, since which time he has lived practically retired, owing to defective eyesight.

Mr. Rutherford has been notably loyal and public-spirited as a citizen and has been influential in the local councils and campaign activities of the Democratic party. In the early days he served as assessor of Beatrice and adjoining townships, for two years he held the office of street commissioner of Beatrice, and his ability and popularity were further indicated by his having been retained for fourteen years as a member of the city council, of which municipal body he was president four years. His progressive policies were engrafted strongly upon the administration of city affairs and finally, in 1909 he had the further distinction of being elected mayor of Beatrice, an office of which he continued the incumbent two years and in which he did much to further the civic and material advancement of the city which he has seen develop from an insignificant village of true frontier type. Mr. Rutherford has been for many years affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, he is one of the honored members of Rawlins Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and his religious faith is that of spiritualism.

In the year 1869 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Rutherford to Miss Mary Brick, who was born in Wisconsin and who came with her father, the late Henry Brick, to Gage county, Nebraska in 1867, the year that marked the admission of the state to the Union. Mrs. Rutherford passed to the life eternal in the year 1908, and her memory is revered by all who came within the compass of her kindly and gracious influence. Though Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford became the parents of ten children none of the number attained to adult age.

FRANCIS M. PETHOUD, whose death occurred at his home farm, in Section 2, Midland township, on the 7th of April, 1906, was about twenty-one years of age when his parents settled in Gage county, in 1858, nearly ten years prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and it was given him not only to experience his full quota of the hardships and trials incidental to life on the frontier but also to do well his part in developing the fundamental resources of the county which continued to be his home until his death and in which he lived and labored to goodly ends.

Francis Marion Pethoud was born at Ironton, Lawrence county, Ohio, July 7, 1837, a son of John Pethoud, a territorial pioneer whose name merits enduring place of honor on the pages of Gage county history and to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work. The subject of this review acquired his early education in the common schools of the old Buckeye state and came with his parents to the Territory of Nebraska at a time when this section was still on the frontier. In Gage county he entered claim soon afterward to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in what is now Section 2, Midland township, and with characteristic energy he girded himself to the arduous work of reclaiming from the virgin prairie a productive farm. His first house was a snug but rude structure of sod and boards, and in this primitive domicile all of his children were born, the same having continued as the family home for a period of fifteen years. Mr. Pethoud met his full share of hardships through drought and grasshopper scourge in the early days but

he was not to be discouraged and had prescience of the gracious returns that the soil of the county would ultimately yield. He applied himself with unremitting diligence, was prospered in his progressive activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower and at the time of his death he was the owner of a valuable landed estate of two hundred and forty acres, clear of all indebtedness and constituting one of the highly improved farm properties of Midland township. Mr. Pethoud was a productive worker and while always ready to do his part in the support of measures and enterprises advanced for the general good of the community he was entirely free of ambition for political activity or public office of any order.

As a young man Mr. Pethoud married Miss Emily Maloney, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, August 28, 1839, and she endured with him the vicissitudes of pioneer life, even as she enjoyed with him the prosperity of later years. After his death she remained on the old homestead until she too was summoned to the life eternal, — on the 12th of December, 1912. In the concluding paragraph of this memoir is given brief record concerning their children.

Fordyce Myron, who has remained a bachelor, remains on the old homestead, as does also his bachelor brother, Darwin Connor, and their maiden sister, Clara B, presides over the domestic economies of as well as being the popular chatelaine of the home, the two brothers being actively associated in the management of the fine farm property and being representative exponents of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in their native county. Darwin C. Pethoud was the fourth in order of birth of the eight children. Charles F. the second child, lives upon and has control of forty acres of his father's estate, and is one of the prosperous farmers of his native township. He married Miss Stella Richardson, and they have three children, — Chester, Dwight and Percy. The eldest son, Chester, is married. Mary A. is the wife of Eli D. McCune, of Riverside, California. Florence E. is the wife of I. M. Hadley, of Lincoln, Nebraska. Carrie and Clara are twins, the latter remaining with her brothers at the old home, as previously noted, and Carrie being the wife of August Guenther, a prosperous farmer in Riverside township. Martha died in early childhood.

ALFRED H. GRAY. — Since the year 1913 Mr. Gray has been general agent for the Bankers' Life Insurance Company, of Lincoln, Nebraska, with residence and official headquarters in the city of Beatrice, and in the extended territory assigned to his jurisdiction he has developed a large and representative business that marks him as one of the able insurance executives and underwriters of the state. The signal success that has attended his varied activities is the more pleasing to contemplate in view of the fact that from his youth he has depended entirely upon his own resources and has made advancement through his own ability and well directed endeavors.

A scion of a family whose name has been closely associated with pioneer life in various states of the west, Alfred H. Gray was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, on the 22d of June, 1861, and he is a son of William and Malinda (Loehr) Gray, the former a native of Illinois, where he was born in the year 1828, and the latter of whom was born in the state of Indiana, in 1840, their marriage having been solemnized in Iowa. Alfred Gray, grandfather of the subject of this review, was a native of Ohio and thence removed to Illinois, where he remained for a number of years. He then went with his family to Iowa, where he became a pioneer farmer, though he had previously followed the trade of cabinetmaker, and in the Hawkeye state he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. James Loehr, maternal grandfather of him whose name initiates this sketch, was born in Pennsylvania, of staunch German lineage, and he likewise became one of the sterling pioneers of Iowa, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits and where he continued his residence until his death.

After his marriage William Gray continued his residence in Iowa until about the year

1860, when he removed to Minnesota and settled on a pioneer farm in Olmsted county. Later he became one of the virtual founders of the village of Eyota, that county, where he erected the first house and where he was engaged in the hotel business five years. He then removed with his family from the southeastern part of the state to the wilds of the southwestern section of that commonwealth. He entered a homestead claim and instituted the reclamation of a farm, his nearest neighbor at the time having resided at a point five miles distant and the nearest postoffice and trading point being twenty-six miles distant. He remained on his embroyonic farm and gave himself vigorously to aiding in the development and upbuilding of a new country, the construction of the railway eventually giving spur to the march of advancement. His wife, now venerable in years, maintains her home at Norton, Kansas. She was formerly a member of the Christian church but is now affiliated with the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Reared in a pioneer community in which educational advantages were notable more particularly for their absence, Alfred H. Gray had but little opportunity to attend school and his education has been mainly that gained through self-discipline and through association with the practical affairs of life. As a boy he attended a select school for three months and aside from this he had practically no definite pedagogic instruction. An alert and receptive mind, however, refuses to recognize such handicaps and he has so profited by experience and service as to be a man of broad information and mature judgment. As a boy he gained fellowship with hard work and he has never since failed in appreciation of the dignity and value of honest toil. He assisted in the support of the family and his first independent work was initated when he obtained a position as railroad brakeman. He followed this occupation ten years and then became a traveling salesman, a vocation which he followed successfully for a long term of years, — in fact, until he turned his attention to the insurance business.

In June, 1913, Mr. Gray established his residence in Beatrice and here became general agent of the Bankers' Life Insurance Company for the territory including Gage county and extending to Norton, Kansas and the southern tier of Nebraska counties as far to the west as Harlan county. He has shown marked finesse and ability in the directing of the work of a large number of agents and has made a splendid record as a successful and progressive exponent of the insurance business.

In politics Mr. Gray supports the Republican party cause in a general way but in local affairs he maintains an independent attitude and gives support to means and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, irrespective of partisan lines. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors.

On the 18th of December, 1884, Mr. Gray wedded Miss Clara Ross, who was born at Red Cloud, Nebraska, her father, Henry Ross, having been one of the pioneer settlers of Webster county, of which Red Cloud is the judicial center; he became one of the successful farmers of Webster county, where he also followed his trade of brick mason, and he is now a successful mason contractor at Campbell, Franklin county, this state. Mrs. Gray died in 1901 leaving two sons, — John L., who is a skilled mechanic residing in Beatrice; and Alfred M., who is now serving in a machine-gun company of the Fifth regiment of the national army that is preparing to enter active service in the great European war. September 9, 1908, Mr. Gray wedded Fannie L. Grensman, of Cortland, Gage county, and they have two children, Robert H. and Thomas H,, aged, in 1918, four and six years respectively.

FRANK MEYER. — The southwest quarter of Section 35, Blakely township, constitutes the attractive and well improved homestead farm of Mr. Meyer, who has been a resident of Gage county since he was a lad

of about twelve years and who is a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of this favored section of Nebraska. His landed estate includes also the northwest quarter of Section 11, Lincoln township, so that he has an aggregate of three hundred and twenty acres of the excellent land of Gage county and has full scope for his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower.

Mr. Meyer was born in La Salle county, Illinois, on the 28th of December, 1860, and is a son of Joseph and Crescentia (Hiebeler) Meyer, both natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they were reared to adult age, their marriage having been solemnized in the state of Illinois. Joseph Meyer was born April 22, 1822, and in 1854 he came to America and established his residence in Illinois. After his marriage he continued his activities as a farmer in Effingham county, that state, until 1872, when he came with his family to Nebraska and rented a farm in Blakely township, west of Beatrice, the judicial center of Gage county. There he continued his operations as a renter until 1877, when he purchased the farm now owned by his son Frank, of this review. He made excellent improvements on this pioneer farm, erecting good buildings, setting out trees, etc., and was an honored and influential factor in the community life, while he endured his full share of the adversity incidental to drought and grasshopper scourge in the early days. He served several years as a member of the school board of his district and gave with consistent liberality to the support of measures and enterprises advanced for the general welfare of the community. It is interesting to record that he and his family made the journey from Illinois to Gage county with teams and two covered wagons of the type best known as prairie schooners, and six weeks were required in making the long overland trip. This honored pioneer passed to the life eternal in April, 1887, and his wife survived him by nearly thirty years. She was born in Bavaria, Germany, on the 14th of March, 1823, and came to the United States in 1856, establishing her home in Illinois, where her marriage occurred, as previously noted in this article. She passed the closing years of her life in the home of her oldest daughter, Mrs. Emil Lang of Beatrice, and was ninety-three years of age at the time of her death, in 1916. She was one of the revered and venerable pioneer women of the county. Both she and her husband were earnest members of the Catholic church. They became the parents of five children: Caroline is the wife of Emil Lang, of Beatrice, this county; Christena is the wife of John G. Hoefling, of Iron River, Wisconsin; the subject of this sketch was the next in order of birth; John is a prosperous farmer of Lincoln township; and Mary is the wife of Philip Graff, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this volume.

Frank Meyer acquired his rudimentary education in the schools of his native state and as a boy of twelve years found the long overland trip to Nebraska an experience which afforded him much enjoyment. He assisted his father in the development of the home farm upon which he now resides and in the meanwhile he attended the local schools when opportunity offered. In 1888, the year after the death of his father, he purchased the old homestead in association with his only brother, John, and in 1890 he purchased also the latter's interest in the property, of which he has since been sole owner and upon which he has made extensive and well ordered improvements. In the autumn of 1906 he added to the area of his landed estate by purchasing a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Lincoln township, and he gives to this also his close personal supervision. On this farm he has erected a large barn with modern facilities, as well as building corncribs and other minor farm buildings. He is politically independent and he is serving in 1917-1918 as treasurer of school district No. 107. He is liberal and public-spirited as a citizen and is one of the substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of the county, — a man who merits and receives the fullest measure of popular esteem. He and his family are communicants of the Catholic church, and he is actively affiliated with the Knights of Columbus.

On the 26th of April, 1892, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Meyer to Miss Marie Buriwal, who was born and reared in Austria, where she remained until 1888 when she came to the United States and established herself in the home of the Lang family, of Beatrice, Gage county, where she remained until the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer became the parents of eight children, of whom the firstborn is Irene; the second child died in infancy; Aloysius is associated in the work and management of the home farm and the other children likewise remain members of the gracious home circle, namely: Anna, Raymond, Hildegard, Helen and Clifford, the last two being twins.

HENRY HORNER. — Both through paternal heritage and pronounced personal appreciation Mr. Horner has been well equipped for the furtherance of the interests of musical art, and he has not only been successful as a teacher of music but has also been active in the sale of musical instruments and merchandise, in which field of enterprise he has been a leading representative in Gage county for the past thirty years, his well equipped music store being established in the city of Beatrice. He has exerted much influence in the gracious advancement of music in connection with the representative social life of Beatrice, has built up a prosperous business and has the securest vantage place in the esteem of the people of Gage county, the while he has always been generous in the application of his musical talent, which is of high order.

Mr. Horner was born in Bradford, England, on the 26th of October, 1852, and is a son of Edward and Ann (Ellis) Horner, who came to the United States when the subject of this review was a child of two years. The father, a man of fine musical ability and attainments, was for many years actively engaged in the teaching of the "divine art," and upon coming to America he first located at Galena, Illinois, whence he later removed to Morrison, that state, where he continued teaching, besides engaging in the sale of musical instruments, until his death, when he was sixty-nine years of age. His widow survived him and passed the closing period of her life at Beatrice, Nebraska, in the home of her son Henry, of this review, where she died when about seventy-five years of age.

To the public schools of Illinois Henry Horner is indebted for his early educational discipline and besides being reared in a home of distinctive musical atmosphere he received in his youth thorough training in instrumental music. In 1887 he came to Nebraska, and here he has been continuously engaged in the sale of musical instruments, as well as in teaching music during the intervening period of thirty years. As a teacher he has given his attention principally to instruction in pianoforte music. In politics Mr. Horner gives his support to the Republican party and he has been for many years affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. The maiden name of his wife was Anna Snyder and they became the parents of seven children, of whom five are living: Samuel is associated with an uncle in business in the city of Chicago; Walter, Edward and Archibald are actively identified with their father's business and are assisting materially in its successful prosecution; and Grace is an efficient and popular teacher in the Waverly public schools: she is a graduate of the high school of Beatrice, and the University of Nebraska.

ANANIAS BREWSTER. — Nearly half a century has passed since Mr. Brewster, a young man of indomitable energy and ambition and one who had previously given loyal service as a youthful soldier of the Union in the Civil war, came to Nebraska and enrolled himself as a pioneer exponent of farm enterprise in Gage county. He has been dependent upon his own resources from his boyhood and thus he had no fear of the exactions and strenuous labors incidental to the reclaiming of a pioneer farm, the civic loyalty which he manifested having been consonant with his ambitious efforts to win for himself by worthy means the independence and prosperity that were his due. With the fleeting years success attended his well ordered endeavors as an agri-

culturist and stock-grower and he long held prestige as one of the prominent and influential representatives of these basic lines of industry in Gage county. He has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten and now lives in gracious retirement in the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Brewster is a scion of the staunchest of American ancestry, as may well be appreciated when it is stated that he is a lineal descendant of Elder William Brewster, who was one of the Puritans who came from England to America on the first voyage of the historic ship "Mayflower" and founded the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts, the family name having been worthily linked with the annals of American history during all succeeding generations. He whose name introduces this article was born in Oneida county, New York, on the 14th of February, 1847, and in Otsego county, that state, were born his parents, John and Elizabeth (Wilbur) Brewster, representatives of honored pioneer families of that section of the old Empire commonwealth. The father of Mr. Brewster was a farmer and miller by vocation and died in Oneida county, New York, when the subject of this review was a lad of eleven years, the devoted mother surviving by a number of years.

Ananias Brewster, the youngest in a family of ten children, gained but little scholastic training in his youth, the death of his father making it necessary for him to depend mainly upon his own resources several years prior to attaining to adult age. He worked at whatever occupation he could obtain and continued to attend school at rare intervals until after the outbreak of the Civil war, and prior to his seventeenth birthday anniversary he manifested his intrinsic patriotism by tendering his services in defense of the Union. In August, 1864, he enlisted as a private in Company L, Fifteenth New York Volunteer Infantry, and with this gallant command he continued in service until the close of the war. He participated in a number of important engagements, including the siege and battle of Petersburg, and after receiving his honorable discharge he returned to his native state and resumed his association with agricultural enterprise.

In 1869, at the age of twenty-two years, this youthful veteran of the Civil war came to the west, and after passing one year in Will county, Illinois, he came, in the spring of 1870, to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of prairie land, about three miles east of Beatrice. In 1872 he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of state land near the village of Clatonia, and upon this place he continued his residence eight years, in the meanwhile having made good improvements on the same. After selling this property he purchased a farm eight miles east of Beatrice, where he continued his progressive activities as a farmer and stock-grower for the ensuing twenty years, within which he developed the place into one of the well improved farms of the county. He finally sold this farm, but after residing four years in Beatrice he bought another farm, in Rockford and Riverside townships, where he remained until 1916, when he retired from active labors and established his residence in the city of Beatrice. Here he has an attractive home in which he and his wife delight to extend welcome and hospitality to their many friends. Both are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is a Democrat in his political faith and adherency. While residing on his farm in Logan township he served a number of terms as township treasurer, as well as a member of the school board of his district. During his former period of residence in Beatrice he here served for a time as a member of the board of education. He maintains deep interest in his old comrades of the Civil war and manifests the same by his affiliation with Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, in his home city. Mr. Brewster is a man of strong mentality and has kept himself well informed on the questions and issues of the day, so that he is well fortified in his opinions and convictions. He reads much and with discrimination and takes vital interest in all things pertaining to the nation's participation

in the great European war — a service into which one of his sons has entered.

January 3, 1872, Mr. Brewster wedded Miss Elvira Tanner, a member of a well known Gage county family that is given recognition on other pages of this publication, and concerning the children of this union the following brief record is offered: Frank is engaged in the practice of his profession at Beaver City, as one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Furnas county; Elizabeth, who likewise was graduated in a school of medicine, is the wife of Edward Lamb, a prominent attorney of Beaver City; Captain Charles Lee, who was graduated in the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and who is junior member of the law firm of Sackett & Brewster, of Beatrice, gave gallant service in the Philippine Islands as a soldier of the Spanish-American war, and he received a severe wound in one of his feet: he is now captain of Company C, of Beatrice, which has entered the national army for service in the European war and is with his company in the cantonment at Camp Cody, New Mexico, at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918; Rose is the wife of Edward Thomas, president of a college at Alberta, Canada; Imogene is the wife of Edward Rutlege and they reside in the state of New Mexico; Frederick is a dentist by profession and is engaged in practice at Aspen, Colorado; Beulah is a successful teacher of domestic science in a college at Malbur, Iowa; and Lulu, who remains at the parental home, was a member of the class of 1913 in the Beatrice high school.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND. — The late William Townsend merits a tribute of honor in this history by reason of his having been a sterling pioneer of Gage county and a citizen of prominence and influence in Hanover township, where he reclaimed and improved a fine farm property and where the little hamlet of Townsend was named in his honor, he having been appointed postmaster in the community in 1874 and the postoffice having been established in his home, the locality thus being given his name, even as was the postoffice.

Mr. Townsend was born in Delaware county, New York, February 1, 1829, a son of Moorehouse and Anna (Johnson) Townsend, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of the old Empire state, where their marriage was solemnized. Moorehouse Townsend was twelve years old at the time of the family removal to the state of New York, and after leaving school he followed a seafaring life until he was about thirty years old, when he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1864 he removed with his family to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he remained until 1870, when he became one of the pioneer settlers of Gage county, Nebraska. He passed the remainder of his life on his farm, in Hanover township, where his death occurred in 1878, his widow having survived him by a number of years and having been of venerable age at the time of her demise. They were survived by four children — William, subject of this memoir; Eunice, who became the wife of Daniel Griffin; Caroline, who became the wife of William Barrett; and Wallace, who was a resident of Beatrice at the time of his death.

William Townsend was reared under the invigorating discipline of his father's farm and gained his early education in the common schools. In Bradford county, Pennsylvania, on the 24th of November, 1851, he married Miss Marian Denton, who likewise was born in Delaware county, New York. In 1866 Mr. Townsend removed with his family to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming on rented land. In 1870 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unbroken prairie land in Hanover township, for which property he paid seven dollars an acre. He reclaimed and developed in this township a valuable farm estate of three hundred acres, and here he continued his residence until 1892, when he removed to Nuckolls county, his death having there occurred on the 6th of February, 1895. The wife of his young manhood was called to the life eternal on the 11th of March, 1874,

WILLIAM TOWNSEND

and of the eight children of this union five are living: Robert resides at Fort Morgan, Colorado; Duane is a resident of Ranier, Oregon; Mrs. Emma Cox maintains her home in Beatrice, as does also John, who was the next in order of birth; and Mary is the wife of Theodore Bohnstedt, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this volume. In 1876 Mr. Townsend married Mrs. Mary Jane (Shearer) Post, a native of Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of one child, Cora Belle.

Mr. Townsend was a Republican in politics and in addition to having served several years as postmaster at Townsend, he also gave equally effective administration in the office of justice of the peace. He was a lifelong and zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his life was ordered in consonance with the faith which he thus professed.

BERNARD E. DRUMMOND. — The city of Beatrice is favored in claiming as its own an institution that is not only a virtual public utility but is also one of thoroughly metropolitan facilities, — the Kimball Laundry, of which Mr. Drummond is one of the proprietors. This laundry is operated with equipment of the most modern type throughout and the large and representative patronage accorded to it gives evidence of the high popular estimate placed upon its service. Mr. Drummond and R. G. Weston purchased the plant and business of this well ordered steam laundry in January, 1914, and their careful and progressive business policies have inured greatly to the success of the enterprise, the laundry having been established more than a quarter of a century ago and having maintained a high reputation prior to passing into possession of the present proprietors, who have effectively enhanced its reputation for the best grade of service. In connection with the operations of the Kimball laundry is retained a working force of six men and eighteen young women, each skilled in the work assigned.

Bernard Emmett Drummond was born in Saline county, this state, and is a son of Michael L. and Catherine (Mehan) Drummond, who were pioneer settlers of that county, where the father entered a homestead claim and developed a good farm; he is now living practically retired and he and his wife maintain their home in the city of Beatrice, they having come to Gage county when their son Bernard E. was a child. He whose name initiates this review acquired his youthful education in the schools of this county and at the age of nineteen years he entered upon an apprenticeship to the trade of iron-moulder. As an expert workman at his trade he was employed five years in the works of the Dempster Manufacturing Company, at Beatrice, and thereafter he was for twelve years successfully engaged in the cigar and tobacco business in Beatrice, his retirement from this business having occurred when, in 1914, he and his present associate purchased the plant and business of the Kimball Laundry, to which he has since given his undivided attention. He is a Republican in his political proclivities, is one of the loyal and popular members of the Beatrice Commercial Club, and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

In 1903 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Drummond to Miss Lena R. Bush, daughter of the late Judge James Bush, and the one child of this union is a fine little son, Charles Bernard, who was born February 12, 1915.

JAMES K. CULLEN. — Among the early settlers in Gage county was James Cullen, a man who came west in search of a home where land could be purchased more cheaply, and where the opportunities were greater than in the state of Illinois where he had been a farmer for many years. He was moved also by an earnest desire to establish his home in a community in which he should not be denied the full advantages of and fellowship in the church of which he was an earnest adherent.

Mr. Cullen was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and when a young man he moved to Woodford county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming for many years. Mr. Cullen was united in marriage to Miss Christina

Harshbarger, also a native of Rockingham county, Virginia. In 1885 Mr. Cullen came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and located in Rockford township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, partly improved. He was very successful, and at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred acres in Rockford township. Mr. Cullen passed away at the age of seventy-two years and his wife followed him to the life eternal three years later, at the age of seventy-four years. Mr. and Mrs. Cullen were members of the Church of the Brethren, were good Christian people and were very highly respected by all who knew them. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living: Sarah is the wife of Perry Van Dyke, of Newburg, Oregon; John, who for many years was a successful farmer in Sherman township, is now living in Kansas; Mary is the wife of J. C. Dell, of Gage county; James resides in Rockford township; William is a resident of Newburg, Oregon; Augusta is the wife of Ulysses G. McPheron, of Sherman township; H. D. is a farmer in Rockford township; Naomi is the wife of J. S. Dell, of Rockford township; and Clarence and Otis are at Newburg, Oregon.

CLARENCE W. GALE.— The most modern and metropolitan of facilities and service are represented in the attractively appointed photographic studio of Mr. Gale, in the city of Beatrice, and the large and representative supporting patronage accorded to him indicates the high popular estimate placed upon him and on the work issued from his establishment. He is a native son of Gage county and has won place as a leading exponent of high-class photographic portraiture in this section of Nebraska.

Mr. Gale was born on a farm in Adams township, this county, and the date of his nativity was July 12, 1887. He is a son of Charles and Aldula (Garrison) Gale, the former a native of Wisconsin and the latter of Iowa, both having been young folk at the time of the removal of the respective families to Nebraska, about the year 1865, prior to the admission of the state to the Union. George Gale, paternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was born and reared in Wisconsin, where his parents settled in the early pioneer days, and upon coming to Nebraska Territory he numbered himself among the early exponents of agricultural industry in Gage county, where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives, as did also the maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Omer Garrison, who came to the territory about the same time, Mr. Garrison having been another of the sterling pioneer farmers of Gage county, and having been a native of the state of Pennsylvania. Charles Gale continued his active association with farm enterprise in this county until shortly after the birth of his son Clarence W., of this sketch, and in the meanwhile he made also an excellent record as a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of the county. Upon leaving the farm he removed with his family to Beatice, and here he became secretary of the State Building & Loan Association, an office of which he continued the incumbent until 1916. Thereafter he here lived retired until his death, which occured October 25, 1917. He was a staunch Republican in politics and was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his widow. Of their children the subject of this review is the eldest; Laura is an efficient and popular teacher in the Beatrice high school; Robert is engaged in the photographic business at York, judicial center of the Nebraska county of the same name; Marie and Dorothy remain with their widowed mother. Dorothy is a valued assistant in the photographic studio of her elder brother.

In the public schools of Beatrice Clarence W. Gale continued his studies until he had completed the curriculum of the high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1904. He then devoted himself with characteristic vigor and earnestness to acquiring thorough knowledge of all scientific and art details of modern photography, and he has been independently engaged in business as a leading photographist in Beatrice since 1906. He is aligned as a staunch supporter of the

cause of the Republican party but has manifested no ambition for political activity or official preferment. He and his wife are popular factors in the social activities of their home city and have a wide circle of friends in Gage county.

The year 1909 recorded the marriage of Mr. Gale to Miss Gladys Majors, who was born at Peru, Nemaha county, this state, and who is a daughter of Hon. Thomas J. and Isabelle (Bushong) Majors. Her father served as colonel of a Union regiment during the period of the Civil war, he having been born in Kentucky and having become a pioneer of Nebraska Territory prior to the war. He has been one of the representative farmers and most influential and honored citizens of Nemaha county for many years and is now living virtually retired in the village of Peru. Colonel Majors has been specially prominent in political affairs in Nebraska, has served as a member of the state senate and a few years ago he was the Republican candidate for governor of the state, his defeat being the result of normal political exigencies. Mr. and Mrs. Gale are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the attractive family home is brightened by the presence of their two children,— Francis and Doris.

ALEX L. ANDERSON:— In the city of Beatrice Mr. Anderson is a successful representative of a line of enterprise that has important bearing upon the civic and material advancement of every community, as he is here established in the real-estate business, in which his operations have become widely disseminated through Nebraska and other states of the west. Thorough knowledge of realty values, progressive methods and fair and honorable dealings have gained to him unqualified popular confidence and enabled him to build up a business of substantial and prosperous order, the while he is known as one of the loyal and public-spirited citizens of Gage county and its capital city.

Mr. Anderson was born, reared and educated in Sweden, where his parents passed their entire lives and where his father, Andrew Anderson, was a farmer by vocation. Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden, on the 29th of March, 1859, and in 1881, soon after attaining to his legal majority, he came to the United States, relying entirely upon his own resources in establishing himself in the land of his adoption and in here winning his way to the plane of prosperity and independence. For six months after his arrival he was employed on a dairy farm in Connecticut, and he then made his way to Wisconsin, where he found remunerative employment at his trade, that of blacksmith. A few months later he again yielded to the wanderlust, by coming to Nebraska, and after having worked about two years at his trade in the city of Lincoln he came, in 1884, to Beatrice, where he established himself in the work of his trade. He eventually developed a substantial independent business as a blacksmith and with this sturdy line of industrial enterprise he continued his active association until 1907, since which year he has given his time and attention to the real-estate business, as previously noted in this context. As a loyal and appreciative citizen he has taken active interest in political affairs, though never an aspirant for public office, and he is found aligned as a stalwart supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. He and his family are communicants of the Lutheran church and he is affiliated with the Fraternal Aid Union and the Modern Woodmen of America.

In 1884 Mr. Anderson wedded Miss Lottie Berg, who likewise is a native of Sweden, and they have two daughters,— Minnie Ruth, who completed a course in the Beatrice high school and who is now a successful and popular teacher; and Clara, who is a skilled stenographer and who holds as such a position in the city of Omaha.

WILLIAM L. OZMAN.— The honored pioneer of Gage county whose name initiates this paragraph has passed recently the eightieth milestone on the journey of life and though in his experience he has endured to the full the "heat and burden of the day" and made his activities count in worthy productiveness,

the years rest lightly upon him and he has the mental and physical vigor commonly accredited only to a man many years his junior. Since 1910 he has lived practically retired in the city of Beatrice, and aside from the distinction that is his as one of the early settlers of Gage county there must ever attach to his name the high honor of having given valiant service as a loyal soldier of the Union in the Civil war.

Mr. Ozman was born at Lansing, Tompkins county, New York, in the year 1837, and was reared to manhood in the old Empire state, where he received the advantages of the common schools and where, at the age of eighteen years, he entered upon an apprenticeship to the trade of harnessmaker, in which he became a skilled workman. Mr. Ozman is doubly appreciative of the patriotism manifested by the young men of America at the present time, when they are giving themselves earnestly to making up the fine national army for the country's participation in the great European war, and this attitude on his part can not but recall vividly to his mind the time when, as a young man of twenty-five years, he subordinated all personal interests to respond to the call of patriotism, by tendering his services in defense of the Union. In 1862 he enlisted as a private in Company C, One Hundred and Ninth New York Volunteer Infantry, with which he proceeded to the front and took part in various engagements, including the first battle of the Wilderness. Shortly after this historic engagement he was attacked with illness and thereafter he remained incapacitated for active service until January, 1865, when he rejoined his regiment, with which he took part in the battle of Petersburg on the 2d of the following April, this being one of the last of the important battles of the great internecine conflict. After the surrender of Generals Lee and Johnston Mr. Ozman took part in the Grand Review of the victorious troops in the city of Washington, where he received his honorable discharge. He then returned with other members of his regiment to New York state, and shortly afterward he established himself in business as harnessmaker, at Ithaca, that state. In 1866 he sold his business and went to Wheatland, Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he continued in the same line of business until 1871. In the year last mentioned Mr. Ozman became a resident of Gage county, Nebraska, where he obtained a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Section 6 Highland township. He was one of the early settlers of that part of the county, and recalls that at the time Indians were still much in evidence in this section of the state, the while deer and antelope still roved the prairies. He gave himself vigorously to the reclaiming and improving of his pioneer farm and eventually developed the same into one of the productive and valuable landed domains of the county. In character and ability he was well fitted for leadership in community affairs, and he was active in the furtherance of measures and undertakings that conserved both civic and industrial advancement and prosperity. He and his devoted wife assisted earnestly in the organizing of the first Sunday school in Highland township, and he was influential in the establishing and activities of the Gage county grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, as well as the Farmers' Alliance of later years. He was able also to give effective service as one of the pioneer teachers of this section of the state, and while improving his homestead he taught eleven terms of school, in Gage and Lancaster counties, his service in the pedagogic profession having been given during the winter terms, while he devoted the intervening summer seasons to the affairs of his farm.

Mr. Ozman has never abated his deep interest in his old comrades of the Civil war or in promoting lofty ideals of patriotism, in which connection it is pleasing to note that on the occasion of the old soldiers' reunion held at Beatrice in 1876, in connection with the centennial anniversary of our national independence, he was chosen to deliver the patriotic address, a duty which he discharged with characteristic ability and earnestness. In all ways has this sterling pioneer stood exemplar of loyal and progressive citizenship, and none has commanded a greater degree

of popular confidence and good will. The political proclivities of Mr. Ozman are indicated in the staunch support which he accords to the Republican party, and he and his family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has been active and zealous for many years. He has been affiliated with the time-honored Masonic fraternity since 1866 and is one of the honored and veteran members of Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, at Beatrice.

In Wisconsin, Mr. Ozman wedded Miss Mary A. Phillips, who was born in England and who was a girl when she accompanied her parents on their immigration to America. A woman of strong character and high ideals, Mrs. Ozman shared with her husband the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life in Gage county, and she was the first woman to live on their old homestead in Highland township, where she was the gracious and efficient chatelaine of the pioneer home and where she died at the age of forty-seven years, being survived by six children, concerning whom the following brief record is given: Elizabeth Etta is the wife of Lincoln Paine, of Caldwell, Idaho; Edmund Grant, who is now one of the prosperous farmers of Gage county, served in the command of General Colby in the Indian war that culminated in the battle of Wounded Knee, South Dakota; Agnes Nevada is the wife of Mr. LaGrange and they maintain their home in the state of Oklahoma; Mary Ella became a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal church and as such was in service in South America for the three years preceding her death; Roscoe C., who was graduated in the law department of the University of Nebraska, engaged in the practice of his profession at Lincoln, capitol of the state, and he thereafter had the distinction of serving three years as city clerk, besides which he well upheld the patriotic honors of the family name by enlisting for service in the Spanish-American war, in which connection he was assigned to duty in the Philippine Islands, where he took part in various engagements, in one of which he was wounded in the right wrist: in 1917 he wedded Miss Edna Demming, one of his youthful schoolmates, and they now maintain their home on one of the fine farms of Colorado; Alfred Blaine, the youngest of the children, married Miss Ida Brown, of Beatrice, and he is one of the progressive farmers of Holt township, this county.

April 5, 1899, William L. Ozman contracted a second marriage, the maiden name of his wife having been Luetta May Kitchen. Mrs. Ozman was born and reared in Jasper county, Iowa, a representative of one of its well known pioneer families, and she makes the pleasant home of the family one notable for its generous hospitality and good cheer. Mr. and Mrs. Ozman have two children,— Earl John and Theodore R., both of whom remain at the parental home and are students in the public schools of Beatrice.

FREDERICK J. SMITH left a definite and worthy impress in connection with civic, industrial and business advancement in Gage county, commanded the high regard of all who knew him and it is but due that a tribute to his memory be incorporated in this volme.

Mr. Smith was born in the district of East Friesland, in the extreme northwestern part of Germany, and the date of his nativity was December 22, 1850. He was a scion of one of the old and sterling families of that historic section of Germany, a district formerly a part of the Netherlands, and was a son of Jergen and Etta (Goldenstein) Schmidt, concerning whom more specific mention is made on other pages, in the memoir of John Carstens, who married their daughter Mary. Mr. Smith was reared and educated in his native land and was about seventeen years of age when he came to America, in 1868, he having found it expedient to change the original spelling of the family name to the English form after he had here established his home. At Rushville, Illinois, he has associated with the business conducted by his uncle until 1872, when he came to Gage county, after having previously purchased a homestead near Clatonia. Such was his intellectual ability that he was called upon to teach school in one of the districts of Clatonia township, and his ambition led

him, about 1874, to take a higher course of study, in Wesleyan University at Warrenton, Missouri. Thereafter, he continued his successful service as a teacher in Clatonia township until his marriage, in 1880, after which he engaged in farming, six miles west of Cortland. In 1885 he removed with his family to the village of Cortland, where he engaged in the general merchandise business and built up a substantial and prosperous trade. He continued his activities as a representative merchant of Cortland until his death, which occurred January 21, 1913. He was the owner of a well improved farm in Clatonia township and also of another, in Rooks county, Kansas. He was a stockholder of the Farmers' State Bank of Cortland and also of the Farmers' Elevator Company of that place. He was loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, his course was guided and governed by the highest principles, and he held the inviolable confidence of those with whom he came in contact in the varied relations of life. His political support was given to the Republican party, he served a number of years as a valued member of the board of education at Cortland, he was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and he was a zealous member of the German Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his widow, who still resides at Cortland. He aided much in the organization of the church of this denomination at Cortland and in the erection of the church edifice, besides having served as an officer of the same.

On the 1st of April, 1880, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Smith to Mrs. Maria (Wendt) Pothast, widow of Simon Pothast, whose death occurred when he was about thirty-two years of age, in Illinois, and who is survived by four sons,— Henry, who is engaged in the real-estate business in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska; David, who is a retired farmer in Colorado; Edward, who is cashier of the Farmers' State Bank at Cortland; and Frederick L., who is cashier of the Farmers' State Bank at Pickrell and is individually mention on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of six children: Rosetta and Anetta died in early childhood; Lillie is the wife of Professor H. G. Least, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Elsie is the wife of J. H. Wehrli, of Haxton, Colorado; Setta died at the age of three years, of membranous croup; and Luella remains with her widowed mother at Cortland.

Mrs. Maria (Wendt) Smith was born in Germany, October 10, 1850, and in 1868 she accompanied her parents on their immigration to America, the family home having been established in Illinois, where her first marriage was solemnized, and her parents having eventually come to Gage county, Nebraska, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Smith is a daughter of Philip and Helen (Kentsche) Wendt, both natives of Germany, where the former was born in 1830 and the latter in 1828. Mr. Wendt was a shoemaker by trade, and resided at Davis, Illinois, until he came to Gage county, in 1886. Here he worked at his trade and clerked in the general store of F. J. Smith & Co. He died in 1892, and his venerable widow passed the closing years of her life in Cortland, where she died in 1903. Of their four children two are living,— Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Helena Lucka, who likewise resides at Cortland, this county.

JAMES R. WILSON is numbered among the progressive business men and influential citizens of the village of Pickrell, where he is a stockholder in and general manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company, besides which his association with agricultural enterprise is further shown by his ownership of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Thomas county, this state.

Mr. Wilson was born on a farm near Springfield, capital city of Illinois, on the 20th of April, 1870, and is a son of Robert and Mary E. (Reed) Wilson, of whose seven children he is the firstborn; Clara is the wife of P. G. Stanley, of Cheyenne Wells, Colorado; Rilla is the wife of E. T. Locke, of Wichita, Kansas; Lena is the wife of J. J. Sherman, of Doniphan, Hall county, Nebraska; Lillian is the wife of Ralph G. Ells, a successful farmer in Blakely township, Gage county;

Ada is the wife of W. E. Derby, of North Platte, this state; and William W. resides at Beatrice, Gage county.

Robert Wilson was born near the city of Liverpool, England, June 8, 1838, and was reared and educated in his native land. There he was associated with farm enterprise until about 1868, when he came to the United States and engaged in farming near Springfield, Illinois. In 1878 he came with his family to Nebraska and established his residence on a farm which he rented from Judge Parker, south of Beatrice, the judicial center of Gage county. Later he purchased land on the old Indian reservation, in Liberty township, where he reclaimed and developed a fine farm and where he continued to reside until 1900, when he sold the property. He then paid a visit to his son James R., of this review, after which he set forth to visit his old home in England, his intention being to return to America and purchase land in Canada. Mystery and probable tragedy are all that can be conjectured concerning him since that time, as none of his family has heard from him since he left Gage county and no trace of him has been obtained from any source. His wife, whose death occurred in 1902, was born near Springfield, Illinois, in June, 1846.

James R. Wilson was a lad of eight years when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, where he was reared to manhood and made good use of the advantages afforded in the public schools. He continued thereafter to be associated with productive farm enterprise until 1911, in April of which year he assumed his present office, that of manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Pickrell.

On the 20th of March, 1895, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wilson to Miss Rosa M. Renfro, who was born in southern Missouri, June 21, 1877, a daughter of J. T. and Martha (Boyd) Renfro, both likewise natives of Missouri, representatives of the Renfro family having been clergymen of the Baptist church in two or more generations. Upon leaving Missouri the parents of Mrs. Wilson removed to western Kansas, where her father took up a homestead claim, but within a comparatively short time he came with his family to Pawnee county, Nebraska. He and his wife now reside at Peru, Nemaha county, where he is living retired, save that he gives his supervision to his fruit orchard, which is a small but productive one. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have three children,—Ray, who is assistant manager of the grain elevator at Pickrell, as his father's valued aid; Harry, who is a student in the high school at Beatrice, and Frank, who is the youngest member of the home circle.

A wide-awake and progressive citizen and business man, Mr. Wilson has been specially influential in public and community affairs at Pickrell, and he was prominently identified with the organization and incorporaiton of the village. In 1914 he was elected mayor, and of this municipal office he has since continued the incumbent,—a fact that attests alike his personal popularity and his effective administration. He has been progressive in his official policies and under his regimé great improvements have been made in the village, especially in establishing the system of electric street lighting and the construction of cement sidewalks. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workman.

SILAS A. SEYMOUR is another of the honored Nebraska pioneers who has shown his appreciation of the advantages and attractions of the city of Beatrice by here establishing his home after retirement from productive activities as a farmer. He was born in Herkimer county, New York, on the 4th of November, 1843, and is a son of Tompkins and Hannah (Dodge) Seymour, both likewise natives of the old Empire state, where they passed their entire lives and where the father became a substantial farmer and influential citizen of Herkimer county. He also was a successful merchant and contractor for a term of years. His father, Silas Seymour, was born and reared in New York state, his parents having been natives of England, and he was a soldier in the war of 1812. His

wife's father, Amasa Dodge, was a representative of one of the old and honored families of the Mohawk valley of New York. Tompkins Seymour was originally a Democrat in politics, but finally he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party. He was a man of broad mental ken and mature judgement and he commanded the high esteem of all who knew him. He was called upon to serve in various township offices, and he and his wife were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their five children the subject of this sketch is the only one living.

Silas A. Seymour acquired his preliminary education in the district schools of Oswego county, New York, and thereafter attended Pulaski Academy, at Pulaski, that state, besides pursuing higher academic studies in Falley Seminary, at Oswego. He enlisted in 1864 as a member of Company E, One Hundred and Eighty-ninth New York Volunteer Infantry, and with this command he was in active service until the close of the Civil war, he having been with his regiment at Appomattox at the time of the surrender of General Lee and having taken part in numerous engagements that occurred within the final year of the great conflict. In later years he has vitalized his interest in his old comrades in arms by maintaining affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

After the close of the war Mr. Seymour attended Falley Seminary, as noted above, and in 1867 he numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Blackhawk county, Iowa, where he engaged in farm enterprise and where he continued his residence until 1871. In that year, with team and covered wagon, he made the overland journey to Jefferson county, Nebraska, and the same primitive method of transportation was used when he brought his family to the new home, in the following year. He purchased in Jefferson county a quarter section of land, minor improvements having previously been made on the place, including the erection of a house fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions and built of cottonwood lumber. On this farm he continued his residence fourteen years, within which period he brought the land under effective cultivation, enlarged and remodeled the house and erected other requisite farm buildings. He was successful in his vigorous activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower and in 1885 he came with his family to Beatrice, where he purchased property and established his permanent home. Here he has since lived practically retired during the intervening years and in the enjoyment of the peace and prosperity that fittingly crown a life of earnest and fruitful endeavor.

On the 2d of January, 1868, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Seymour to Miss Elizabeth Porter, who was born and reared in the state of New York, a daughter of Nelson B. Porter, and certain of whose ancestors were patriot soldiers in the war of the Revolution, so that she is eligible for and actively affiliated with the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have two children. Florence, a graduate of the Beatrice high school, remains at the parental home and is popular and active in connection with the social life of the community. Gertrude is the wife of Verne H. Burnette, who is engaged in the printing business in the city of St. Joseph, Missouri, as a member of the Roubidoux Printing Company. The elder daughter is a skilled stenographer and has been employed as such for several years.

Mr. Seymour is found arrayed as a loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights and Ladies of Security and he and his wife are active members of the Congregational church. He finds ample demands upon his time and attention in his activities as a fancier and raiser of fancy poultry, in which field of enterprise he raises fine Rhode Island Reds, his exhibit of which at the Gage county fair in 1917 brought to him majority of the blue ribbons on this type of poultry.

GEORGE E. THEASMEYER, who is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 15, Clatonia township, and

who is giving special attention to the breeding and raising of Hereford cattle and Poland-China swine, is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Gage county and was born on the old homestead of his father, in Section 15, Clatonia township, July 26, 1882, being fourth in a family of six children; Henry is the eldest of the family and remains with his mother; Anna is the wife of John Krauter, of Clatonia township; Emma is the wife of Henry Heller, of Lancaster county; Nina is the wife of Henry Horn, of Gering, Scotts Bluff county; and Daniel, who lives with his mother, is a farmer in Clatonia township.

Henry Theasmeyer, father of the subject of this review, was born in Detmold, Principality of Lippe, Germany, February 21, 1850, and was one of the honored pioneer citizens of Gage county at the time of his death, December 27, 1914. In early childhood he was left an orphan and he was reared by kinsfolk, the while he began to provide in a degree for his own maintenance when he was but ten years old, by doing farm work within the compass of his physical powers. His educational advantages were limited and in his native land he applied himself diligently until he was nineteen years old, when he determined to come to America, where he felt that he could find better opportunities for advancement. In 1869 he embarked, at Bremen, on a sailing vessel, and in due time he landed in New York city. He thence went forthwith to Stephenson county, Illinois, where he found work on a farm and where his efficient services won for him a noteworthy advance in wages within the ensuing six years. There, on the 21st of April, 1875, he married Miss Susan Lauber, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, July 30, 1852, and who now maintains her home in the village of Clatonia. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Theasmeyer came, in the spring of 1875, to Gage county, where he purchased eighty acres of railroad land, in Section 15, Clatonia township. A plentitude of success attended his earnest activities during the long years that marked the general development and progress of Gage county, and he became one of the most substantial farmers of Clatonia township. He and his wife bravely met the vicissitudes and trials of the pioneer days and in their kindliness and uprightness gained the high regard of all who knew them. At the time of his death, December 27, 1914, Mr. Theasmeyer was the owner of a valuable landed estate of eight hundred and eighty acres. He and his wife aided in the organization of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Clatonia and became charter members of the same, Mrs. Theasmeyer being still an active member. In politics Mr. Theasmeyer was a staunch Republican and he took a lively and intelligent interest in governmental affairs, both national and local.

George E. Theasmeyer has been associated with farm enterprise in Clatonia township from the time of his boyhood, and a portion of his present farm came to him as a heritage from his father's estate, while the remainder he purchased from his widowed mother. He made good use of the advantages afforded in the public schools and this was fostered by influences that made for development of both brain and brawn and that admirably fortified him for the duties and responsibilities of life. He is one of the energetic and successful agriculturists and stock-growers of his native county and as a liberal and progressive citizen is fully upholding the honors of the family name. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and he and his wife are members of the German Methodist church.

March 24, 1904, recorded the marriage of Mr. Theasmeyer to Miss Frances Heller, who was born in Lancaster county, this state, February 6, 1883, a daughter of Joseph and Rosa (Liesech) Heller, who now reside at Hallan, that county. Mr. and Mrs. Theasmeyer have four children — Herbert, Hayward, Helen, and Dale.

JOHN T. JURGENS, who is numbered among the substantial citizens and representative farmers of Hanover township was born at Aurich, in the province of Hanover, Germany, March 3, 1871, and is a son of Thee H. and

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE E. THEASMEYER

Anna (Dutzman) Jurgens, both natives of that section of the German empire, where the former was born in 1833 and the latter in 1830, her death having occurred in 1913. In 1881 Thee H. Jurgens came with his family to Gage county and after farming several years on rented land he purchased eighty acres, in Hanover township. He continued his active and successful association with farm enterpise until 1894, when he retired, and he now resides in the home of his son John T., of this review,—being known as one of the sterling pioneer citizens of the county, his political support being given to the Republican party and his religious faith being that of the German Lutheran church, of which his wife likewise was a devoted communicant. They became the parents of five children: Henry is a prosperous farmer in Logan township; Wilke died when about fifty years of age; Thee T. is a farmer in Hanover township; Grace is the wife of Ehme Waldman, of Logan township; and the subject of this sketch is the youngest of the number.

John T. Jurgens was ten years old at the time when the family home was established in Gage county, and here he was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, the while he made good use of the advantages afforded by the district schools. He finally purchased his father's farm, to which he has added until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of land, in Hanover township. His success has been won with integrity and honor and by close application and good management. He has made excellent improvements on his farm property, including the erection of his present large and attractive house, in 1910, and his large barn, in 1911. He is liberal and loyal as a citizen, is a Republican in politics, has served fifteen years as a member of the school board of his district, besides having given equally efficient service as road overseer and as a member of the official board of the township of Hanover. In connection with diversified agriculture he gives special attention to the raising of good live stock, and he has bred from four full-blood Short-horn bulls that have been owned by him.

In 1896 Mr. Jurgens wedded Miss Elsche Francen, who was born in Champaign county, Illinois, and reared in Gage county, Nebraska. She is a daughter of Harm Francen, who came from Germany and settled in Illinois, where he remained until 1882, when he settled in Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Jurgens are active communicants of the German Lutheran church. They have eight children, all of whom remain members of the gracious home circle — Thee, Harm, Henry, Grace, Wilke, John, Dick, and Anna Y.

O. J. LYNDES.— The greater number of the pioneers of Gage county were of fine, sturdy stock — generous-hearted, resourceful, courageous and optimistic,— and such attributes have significantly denoted the sterling pioneer citizen to whom this sketch is dedicated. Mr. Lyndes is now living virtually retired in the city of Beatrice, but is here associated with his son-in-law, George Mayborn, in the conducting of a well equipped meat market, under the firm name of Mayborn & Lyndes.

Mr. Lyndes was born at Grafton, Lorain county, Ohio, March 6, 1848, and is a son of Orville and Mary (Turner) Lyndes, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont. Orville Lyndes was a scion of fine old Puritan New England ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides and after his removal to Ohio he became a prosperous farmer in Lorain county, both he and his wife having continued their residence in the old Buckeye state until their death. Three of their sons were valiant soldiers of the Union in the Civil war. Anson served more than three years and after being captured by the enemy was confined in a Confederate prison for somewhat more than six months; Frederick was in the Union ranks for more than three years and was with General Sheridan in the historic Shenandoah campaign; and John, whose military career covered four years, was assigned the greater part of the time to the guarding of Confederate prisoners at Columbus, Ohio.

O. J. Lyndes was reared on the old home

farm and gained his early education in the common schools of his native county. At the age of eighteen years he went to Lee county, Illinois, where he found work on a farm and where later he engaged in farm enterprise in an independent way. There he continued his residence until 1879, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, being accompanied by his wife and their infant child and bringing a small supply of household effects to equip the new home, his cash capital at the time of his arrival in Beatrice having been three hundred and fifteen dollars. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on the Indian reservation and now included in Glenwood township. Fort twenty-five dollars he bought a breaking plow from the pioneer firm of Wagner & Lamb; from J. B. Lester he obtained a wagon, for which he paid twenty dollars; and for ninety-nine dollars Samuel Wymore transferred to him a yoke of oxen. Much of his available cash was thus expended for equipment, for his land and for incidental expenses of the family, so that he was glad to add to his resources by breaking prairie land for others, at two dollars an acre. In the autumn of 1880 Mr. Lyndes built on his pioneer farm a frame house fourteen by twenty feet in dimensions, and the freezing of his lime made it impossible for him to plaster the rooms until the following spring. The little house was weather-boarded with one-half inch lap, and in order to make the building snug he covered the interior with building paper, in lieu of plaster. The ensuing winter was the coldest yet known in the history of Gage county, and Mr. Lyndes, his wife and their two children endured the rigors of the winter by living in their primitive little house, which had but one-half of an inch of protective material between the inside and the exterior surface. For his land Mr. Lyndes paid three and one-half dollars an acre, and later he purchased an adjoining tract of one hundred and twenty acres. With valiant energy and perseverance he carried forward the reclaiming and developing of his farm and there he continued his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower for thirty years, at the expiration of which he sold the well improved property at the rate of one hundred and ten dollars an acre. After selling his farm Mr. Lyndes and his wife, who had shared with him in the vicissitudes of the pioneer days, removed to the city of Beatrice, where they now occupy their attractive residence at 1336 Elk street. Since 1910 Mr. Lyndes has been associated with George Mayborn in the meat-market business, and their establishment, at 1220 Court street, receives a substantial and representative patronage, Mr. Lyndes giving but minor attention to the business.

At Dixon, Illinois, in the year 1877, Mr. Lyndes wedded Miss Clara Lindeman, who was born and reared in Lee county, that state, a daughter of Harmon and Nancy (Fritz) Lindeman, the former of whom is deceased and the latter of whom is now a resident of Dixon, Illinois, she having attained to most venerable age. Mr. and Mrs. Lyndes became the parents of five children: Harry has for fully fifteen years been employed by an important chemical manufacturing company in the city of Denver, Colorado; Gertrude became the wife of George Mayborn and is now deceased; Jay G. is a successful farmer near Powell, Wyoming; Mary Ethel is the wife of Earl Martin, of Sterling, Illinois; and Edna is the wife of John Wilson, a successful farmer in Midland township.

Mr. Lyndes relates many interesting incidents pertaining to the pioneer period of Gage county history, and his reminiscences are especially graphic. Mr. Lyndes has stated that he has had no happier period in his life than that when he and his family lived in their bleak little house during the frigid winter of 1881, for he realized that he had good prospects for establishing a home and had the devoted companionship of his wife, who encouraged him in his determination to win independence and prosperity in the county of their adoption.

Mr. Lyndes was alert and loyal in support of all things tending to advance the communal welfare of the township in which he was one of the first settlers, and was specially prominent in effecting the organization of the school

district in his locality, he having been one of its first directors. He served in 1892-1893 as a member of the county board of supervisors and in 1893 he was candidate for county sheriff, but met defeat with the rest of his party's candidates in that election. He and his wife are zealous members of the Christian church, of which he has been an elder about six years. He assisted in organizing the church and Sunday school in his township, besides becoming the first superintendent of the Sunday school. In a basic way he gives his support to the Republican party, but in local affairs he is not constrained by strict partisanship. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are known and honored as sterling pioneer citizens of Gage county, where they have a host of friends.

JOHN Q. REED was a young man when he came with his parents to Gage county and thus can claim pioneer prestige, besides which he is one of the prosperous business men and popular citizens of Beatrice, where he and his brother Luther have for a score of years conducted a well equipped feed and sales stable which represents one of the undivided properties of the Reed family estate.

Mr. Reed was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 29, 1845, and is a son of David and Mary A. (Cochran) Reed, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Kentucky. In 1852 David Reed removed with his family to Sangamon county, Illinois, and there he continued his residence until 1871, when he came with his family to Nebraska, his arrival in Beatrice having occurred April 13th of that year. In Riverside township he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land, and there he developed a productive farm, the while he was known and honored as one of the sterling pioneer citizens of the county. He finally retired from the farm and both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives in Beatrice, both having been zealous members of the Presbyterian church, in which he served as elder. Of the six children three are living: Luther is associated with the subject of this review in conducting the feed and sales stable in Beatrice, as previously noted; John Q. is the next younger; and Nancy, who is the widow of Richard Lowe, likewise resides in Beatrice; Fannie became the wife of Newton Weatherald and both are now deceased; William was a resident of Beatrice at the time of his death; and David Gibson died in childhood, in Ohio.

John Q. Reed is indebted to the schools of Illinois for his early educational training and was twenty-six years of age when he came with his parents to Gage county. Here for several years he did a successful business in the feeding and shipping of cattle, and for five years he purchased cattle for the government, the stock being for the use of the Indians on the Otoe reservation in this county. For the past twenty years he and his brother have been associated in business in Beatrice, as previously noted, and he in the meanwhile gave a most efficient administration in the office of chief of the Beatrice police department, a position of which he continued the incumbent four years. For fifteen years he held the office of county coroner, and he retained this post until the office was abolished, his final term having terminated January 1, 1917. Mr. Reed has seen Beatrice develop from a frontier village to a fine city of metropolitan appearance and facilities, and he takes satisfaction in designating himself as one of the "old-timers" of Gage county. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he has given active service in its behalf in his home county.

October 8, 1884 Mr. Reed wedded Miss Elizabeth A. Fairbanks, who was born and reared in Indiana, and who is a cousin of the late Charles N. Fairbanks, former vice-president of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have one daughter Mary Elizabeth, at home.

LEMUEL P. GESSELL.— From a modest inception Mr. Gessell has built up in the city of Beatrice a most substantial and prosperous job-printing business and his establishment is now throughly metropolitan in its equipment and facilities, so that he caters most acceptably to a large and representative patronage. He

keeps his stock of type-faces up to the best modern standard at all times and in its selection makes provision for the handling of all kinds of artistic job work, both large and small. His battery of presses comprises three modern job presses and he now gives employment to an efficient corps of three assistants.

Mr. Gessell was born in Delaware county, Indiana, on the 8th of January, 1867, and is a son of John and Sarah (Brooke) Gessell, both of whom were born and reared in Fairfield county, Ohio, members of pioneer families of that section of the old Buckeye state. Soon after their marriage John Gessell and his wife removed to Indiana, where he gave considerable attention to the work of his trade, that of shoemaker. In 1869, about two years after the admission of Nebraska to statehood, he came with his family to Gage county and entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, in what is now Grant township. He reclaimed and developed one of the productive farms of the county, was influential in community affairs in the pioneer days and was a Democrat in his political proclivities, both he and his wife having been charter members and earnest communicants of the Trinity Lutheran church at Beatrice. John Gessell had the most meager of financial resources when he numbered himself among the pioneers of the new state of Nebraska, but he so applied his energies in developing the admirable resources of Gage county that he achieved a substantial competency. He was sixty-four years of age at the time of his death and his wife passed to eternal rest at the age of ninety-six years — sterling pioneers whose memories are revered by all who knew them. Of their thirteen children only four are now living: Elmer is a printer by trade and now lives in the city of Dallas, Texas; Jesse is a popular salesman in one of the leading grocery stores of Beatrice; Lemuel P., of this review, was the next in order of birth; and Oscar, a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church, holds at the time of this writing, in 1918, a pastoral charge at Enterprise, Kansas.

Lemuel P. Gessell was about three years of age at the time when his parents came from Indiana and established their home on the pioneer farm in Gage county. As a boy he gained full fellowship with farm work and in the meanwhile he broadened his mental horizon by attending the schools of the locality and period. He continued his studies in the public schools at intervals until he was about sixteen years of age, and his first work after leaving the parental home was as a farm hand. At the age of sixteen years, however, he entered upon a practical apprenticeship to the printer's trade, in the office of the Beatrice Weekly Express, at Beatrice. He continued to work at his trade — principally in the city of Beatrice — until 1909, when he here opened a little printing establishment of his own. His technical skill in the execution of job work, combined with his personal popularity, gained him an appreciative support, and each year witnessed a substantial development in his business, which is now one well established and of prosperous order, as noted in an earlier paragraph of this article.

Mr. Gessell takes loyal interest in all things pertaining to the welfare of the county that has represented his home from childhood and while he has had no ambition for political office he accords staunch support to the cause of the Republican party, both he and his wife holding membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and he being affilliated with the Fraternal Aid Union.

In the year 1889 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gessell to Miss Elizabeth Kelly, who was born on the Isle of Man, in the Irish sea, and who was a child at the time of her parents' immigration to America. Mr. and Mrs. Gessell have one child, Annie, who is a member of the class of 1919 in the Beatrice high school.

STEPHEN BULL was a gallant young veteran of the Civil war when, in 1869, he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. Here he achieved independence and stable prosperity through his active association with farm in-

dustry, did well his part in the furtherance of civic and material progress in the pioneer days, and, now venerable in years, he is one of the honored pioneer citizens of Beatrice, his pleasant home in this city being at 1505 Grant street.

Mr. Bull was born at Camden, Oneida county, New York, September 20, 1844, and is a son of John S. and Lydia Bull. Stephen Bull was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and profited duly by the advantages afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. He was but a youth at the inception of the Civil war but his patriotism and loyalty found exemplification on the 24th of August, 1864, when, at the age of twenty years, he enlisted, from Oswego county, New York, for a term of twelve months. On the 7th of the following month he was mustered in as a private in Company C, (Captain Edward Swan) of the One Hundred and Eighty-sixth New York Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Bradley W. Winslow, the organization of this command having been perfected at Sackett's Harbor, New York. The regiment left for the front September 28, 1864, being assigned to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac. Of the admirable record of this gallant regiment the following data have been obtained: During its period of service the One Hundred and Eighty-sixth New York Infantry participated in the following engagements and skirmishes: Before Petersburg, Virginia, October 1, 1864, and April 2, 1865; Hatcher's Run, Virginia, October 27-28, 1864; Fort Steadman, Virginia, March 25, 1865; Appomattox campaign, Virginia, March 28 - April 8, 1865; fall of Petersburg, April 2, 1865. "The regiment performed brave and valiant service at all times, and lost one hundred and eighty officers and men, in killed, wounded, and missing, during its term of service. It was honorably discharged and mustered out June 2, 1865, near Alexandria, Virginia."

Pertinent to the personal record of Mr. Bull definite details have been given in the following official statement: "The said Stephen Bull was wounded during the assault on Fort Steadman, Petersburg, Virginia, April 2, 1865, while outside the fort, a minie ball having shattered his lower right arm and elbow. He walked from the fort to the Union lines with his injured arm swinging, entered an ambulance and was taken to the field hospital, where the arm was amputated, five inches below the shoulder point. Two days later he embarked at City Point, Virginia, and proceeded to Fairfax Seminary general hospital, at Alexandria, Virginia, where he remained until June 16, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge, by reason of surgeon's certificate of disability on account of loss of arm. Mr. Bull was constantly with his command during its service as outlined until he was wounded; he bore a gallant part in all its engagements and rendered faithful and meritorious service to his country." In the present decade of the twentieth century, when nearly all of the civilized world is aflame with war, it is interesting to revert to the gallantry and sacrifice of Mr. Bull during his period of service as a loyal young soldier of the Union, and he pepetuates the more gracious memories and association of his military career by his affiliation with Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, at Beatrice, in which noble organization he has passed all of the official chairs, including that of commander, of which office he was the incumbent in 1907.

After the close of the war Mr. Bull continued his residence in the state of New York until 1869, when he came to the new state of Nebraska and gallantly arrayed himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He purchased land in Midland township and, notwithstanding his physical infirmity, in the loss of his right arm, he proved himself resourceful and a master of industrial expedients, so that he reclaimed and developed one of the fine farms of the county. He continued his successful association with farm enterprise until February, 1901, since which time he has lived virtually retired, in the city of Beatrice.

On the 23d of March, 1868, at Williamstown, New York, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bull to Miss Polly Louisa Park, who was born at Waterbury, Connecticut, Novem-

ber 20, 1847, and who was reared and educated in the state of New York. In the year succeeding that of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bull came to Gage county and took up the burdens and responsibilities of pioneer life. In this county were born all of their children,— three sons and six daughters, and two of the number, George Frederick and Musadora, preceded their mother to the life eternal. In all that makes for gracious and noble womanhood Mrs. Bull was preëminent, and she went through life trailing the beatitudes of her train, so that her memory is revered by all who came within the compass of her gentle influence. She continued as the devoted companion and helpmeet of her husband for nearly half a century, and the gracious ties were severed by her death, which occurred August 7, 1915. Mrs. Bull was a most earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was one of the loved members of the Centenary church of this denomination in Beatrice during the entire period of her residence in this city. She identified herself actively with the various women's societies of this church and was also affiliated with the Woman's Relief Corps organized as an adjunct of Rawlins Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, besides which she was affiliated with several fraternal societies. Until impaired health made it impossible, Mrs. Bull was a prominent and loved factor in connection with the best social life of the Gage county metropolis, and her memory rests like a benediction upon her venerable husband and her surviving children, concerning whom the following brief record is consistently entered: Nora E. is the wife of Charles Lash, of Des Moines, Iowa; Emma A. resides in Beatrice and for fifteen years has followed the profession of trained nurse; Charles A. resides in Beatrice; Rev. Albert S. is, in 1918, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Tekama, Nebraska; Harriet N. is the wife of Fay Shottenkirk, of Beatrice; Lydia V. is the widow of Frank Wing, of Steele City, Nebraska; and Mary E. is the wife of Robert Shedler, of Casper, Wyoming. September 20, 1916, Mr. Bull married Henrietta Miller of Beatrice.

In politics Mr. Bull gives unwavering allegiance to the Democratic party and he has always shown a loyal interest in communal affairs, as a liberal and progressive citizen. He holds membership in the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church of Beatrice and while he has never been animated by ambition for public office he served as deputy sheriff of Gage county in 1890-1891. A resident of this county for more than half a century, he is well known to its citizens and his circle of friends is limited only by that of his acquaintances.

JOHN KRAPP.— To have attained to the success and status that mark the operations of Mr. Krapp as an agriculturist and stockgrower implies the concentrating of fine ability and energies in the achievement of definite ends. He is the owner of a valuable and well improved landed estate of eight hundred acres, all in Highland township, and his attractive home place, of one hundred and sixty acres, is situated in Section 10. His progressiveness may be said to denote him fully as a native of the great empire of the west, and he is a scion of a sterling pioneer family of Minnesota. In Wabasha county, that state, he was born April 18, 1864, a son of Joseph and Mary (Vollert) Krapp, of whose seven children Saloma, the first, and Peter, the youngest, are deceased, the subject of this review being the eldest son; Mary became the wife of August Heidecker and was a resident of Hallam at the time of her death; Lena is the wife of J. H. Doolittle, of Nemaha township, Gage county; Frances is the wife of Philip O'Brien, of Princeton, Lancaster county, Nebraska; and Charles F. is one of the prosperous farmers of Highland township, Gage county.

Joseph Krapp was born in Germany, in 1828, and as a young man he came to the United States and became a pioneer settler in Wabasha county, Minnesota. There he continued his activities as a farmer until 1872, when he came with his family to Nebraska and established his home in Gage county, where he found ample opportunity for expanding his pioneer experience. He had visited Nebraska

several years previously and incidentally had formed the acquaintance of Joseph Graff, one of the well known pioneers of Gage county. On coming with his family to this state Mr. Krapp made the journey from Minnesota with a team and a covered wagon, and he had not made any definite decision as to his location in the west. In Gage county his friend Mr. Graff persuaded him not to continue his journey further but here to make permanent location. Mr. Graff so effectively presented the claims of the county as a desirable place for successful enterprise that Mr. Krapp decided to establish his home within its borders. Accordingly he took up a homestead of eighty acres in Section 10 Highland township, and the same now constitutes a part of the fine landed estate of his son John, of this review. In his initial operations as a farmer in this county he received assistance and counsel from Mr. Graff, whose friendship he greatly valued. He proved successful as a farmer and remained upon his old homestead until his death, which occurred in 1914, and he developed and improved one of the excellent farm properties of Highland township. His brother John accompanied the family to Gage county and he likewise took a homstead of eighty acres. John Krapp was a man of most kindly and unselfish nature and lived until his death in the home of his brother Joseph, whose children accorded to their bachelor uncle the deepest affection. John Krapp met a sudden death, as the result of organic desease of the heart, and was about seventy years of age at the time. Mrs. Mary (Vollert) Krapp was born in Germany, in 1828, and her marriage was solemnized in Minnesota. She preceded her husband to the life eternal, her death having occurred in 1900.

John Krapp, immediate subject of this sketch, was a lad of seven years when the family made the long overland journey to Gage county, and his parents unloaded their wagons on the site of the barn on his present homestead. By hard work and good management he has pressed forward to the goal of success, and his early education was gained in the pioneer schools of this county. At the age of sixteen years he made his first investment in land, by purchasing eighty acres of railroad land in Highland township, this tract lying adjacent to the present village of Cortland. With increasing prosperity Mr. Krapp continued to make judicious investment in Gage county land, and he made each successive purchase carefully, waiting until he had accumulated sufficient capital to justify such action. His present fine estate comprises seven hundred and twenty acres and includes fully six different farms in Highland township. He has wisely ordered his farm enterprise in all departments, and has been enterprising both as an agriculturist and as a grower of live stock. He is a stockholder of the Farmers' State Bank of Cortland, is a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church.

On the 15th of September, 1903, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Krapp to Miss Clara Doyle, who was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of Edward and Ellen (O'Neill) Doyle. Mr. Doyle was born in Ireland, in 1842, was a child when he came to the United States and was reared by a spinster aunt, Miss Ann Coleman, on a farm near Woosing, Ogle county, Illinois, he having been about six years old when he came to America in company with his older brother, Michael, his mother having died when he was an infant. He went forth as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, August, 1861, having recorded his enlistment as a member of Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he continued in active service until the close of the war, save for a period of about two weeks during which he was confined in the historic Libby Prison, after his capture at the time of the battle of Stone's River, in which he took part. In January, 1867, he married Miss Ellen O'Neill, of Illinois, and in 1873 they came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 30 Highland township. There he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, as sterling pioneers of this county. They became the parents of eight children, of whom eight are

living. Mr. and Mrs. Krapp have four children,— Dorothy, Leland, Neil and Alice.

JOHN F. KRAUTER, whose attractive homestead farm is situated in Section 3, Clatonia township, has by his own ability achieved noteworthy success as a representative of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in his native county, and this is attested by his ownership of a valuable estate of five hundred and twenty acres of the excellent land of Gage county. He was born on his father's farm in Clatonia township, February 11, 1875 and is a member of a family of twelve children. He is a son of George and Caroline (Wolf) Krauter, both natives of Germany, the former having been born in Bavaria, December 5, 1833, and the latter a native of the province of Alsace: their marriage was solemnized in 1853. In the year that recorded his marriage George Krauter came to America, making the voyage on a sailing vessel that did not arrive in the port of New York till after the lapse of about nine weeks. In Orange county, New York, he was employed at farm work about two years and thereafter he was located for a brief period in the vicinity of Sing Sing, that state. He then removed with his wife to Iowa and established his residence at Burlington, which was then a mere village. There he was identified with the lumber business several years, and he then engaged in farm enterprise in that vicinity. In 1871 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead of eighty acres, in Section 3, Clatonia township. As one of the sterling pioneers of that township he won success and independence through his activities as a farmer, and in this township both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, he having been the owner of more than four hundred acres of land in the township at the time of his death, which occurred in November, 1914, his wife having passed away in 1908. He was a Republican in politics, liberal and influential in community affairs, served in various local offices of minor order, and both he and his wife were earnest members of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

John F. Krauter was reared on the pioneer farm and received his early education in the district schools of Clatonia township. He continued to assist his father in the work of the home farm until he had attained to the age of nineteen years and upon reaching his legal majority he initiated farm enterprise in an independent way, handicapped by a debt of one hundred dollars and having as virtually his principal equipment only one horse. In 1897 he purchased his present home farm, of one hundred and twenty acres, and he has not only made this one of the model farms of the township but has shown equal progressiveness in the developing of his other farms, his ability and energy having enabled him to accumulate a valuable landed estate of five hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Krauter has always shown loyal interest in all things tending to advance the welfare of his home community and native county, is a Republican in his political adherency and is serving in 1917-1918 as a member of the school board of his district. He and his wife are active members of the German Methodist church.

April 17, 1902, recorded the marriage of Mr. Krauter to Miss Anna Theasmeier, who was born in this county on the 28th of August, 1878, a daughter of Henry Theasmeier, a well known pioneer of whom more specific mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of his son George. Mr. and Mrs. Krauter have four children,— Edmund S., born January 19, 1903; Raymond, born December 21, 1905; Orris, born March 27, 1910; and Lorrine, born January 31, 1916.

PETER C. THOM was a self-reliant, ambitious and sterling pioneer who contributed in large measure to civic and industrial advancement in Gage county, where he established his home in the year 1868, within a few months after the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and he and his noble wife endured their full share of the vicissitudes and trials incidental to the development of a productive farm in a frontier country. They lived and

MRS. PETER C. THOM

PETER C. THOM

labored to goodly ends and were numbered among the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of the county at the time of their death, their beautiful old homestead farm, in Section 20, Sherman township, being still the place of residence of their son, James A, who has kindly consented to supply the data on which is based this memoir to his parents.

Peter C. Thom was born on a pioneer farm near Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, May 4, 1838, the eldest in a family of six sons and five daughters born to Charles and Mary E. (Weber) Thom, both natives of the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany. Charles Thom was born March 24, 1809, and in his native land he received excellent educational advantages. In Bavaria he was employed as an expert accountant until 1837, when, as a young man of twenty-eight years, he came to America and settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where he became a prosperous farmer and where both he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. Mrs. Thom was born September 15, 1816, a daughter of Michael and Catherine Weber, with whom she came from Bavaria to the United States in 1835, the family home being established in Ohio, where her marriage was solemnized about two years later. Peter C. Thom acquired his early education in the common schools of the Buckeye state, and at the age of fifteen years he began an apprenticeship to the trade of blacksmith, in Union county, Ohio. He became a skilled workman and continued to follow this sturdy trade about fifteen years.

At the age of twenty-one years Mr. Thom wedded Miss Delilah Dailey, who was born in Washington county, Indiana, August 24, 1838, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Feeler) Dailey, natives respectively of North Carolina and Virginia. Mr. Dailey was born in 1808 and his wife in 1810, their marriage having been solemnized in 1836. Soon afterwards they settled in Washington county, Indiana, whence they later removed to Clinton county, that state, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Within a few years after his marriage Mr. Thom left his home to give service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war, and he thus subordinated all other interests to answer the call of patriotism.

On August 16, 1862, Mr. Thom enlisted as a private in Company H, Eighty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and with his command he proceeded to Kentucky, with General Burnside. At Crab Orchard he was attacked with illness of such severity that he was incapacitated and sent to the hospital. Upon measurably recuperating he was assigned to detailed duty as steward of Hospital No. 6, at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and later he was transferred to similar service at Hospital No. 5, in Nashville, Tennessee. A short time prior to the battle of Missionary Ridge he joined his command in that locality, and he took part in the historic battle at that place. In the spring of 1864 he was detailed to a pioneer brigade, and with the same he continued in active service until the close of the war, he having been mustered out June 6, 1865. It may be noted at this juncture that in later years Mr. Thom manifested his continued interest in his old comrades in arms by maintaining affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic, as a member of Scott Post, Blue Springs, Gage county.

After a record of loyal service as a soldier of the republic Mr. Thom returned to Indiana and established a blacksmith shop in the village of Lexington. There he continued in the work of his trade until 1868, on the 10th of August of which year he set forth with his family for Nebraska, the entire journey having been made with team and wagon and the sojourners having arrived in Gage county about the 1st of September. Mr. Thom located a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 20, Sherman township, and the pioneer dug-out which he constructed on the pioneer farm continued to be the family home about nine years. Hardships and privations were encountered by Mr. and Mrs. Thom, and to make provision for his family he did more or less work at his trade, including about two months of such service on the Otoe Indian reservation. He eked out the family living the first winter by trapping mink, from the sale of the skins of which he was

able to add somewhat to his available financial resources. For a time also he was engaged in freighting between Beatrice and Nebraska City, and in the meanwhile he was vigorously carrying forward the reclamation and development of his frontier farm. A high type of judgment and progressiveness was his, and one of his splendid achievements in the early days was the planting of a large number of forest trees on his farm and also an orchard. With the passing years abundant success crowned his earnest endeavors as an agriculturist and stock-grower, and at the time of his death he was the owner of a well improved and valuable landed estate of four hundred acres in Gage county. Mr. Thom passed from the stage of life's mortal activities on the 7th of December, 1894, and his widow survived him by seventeen years, she having been called to the life eternal on the 16th of December, 1911, the names and memories of both meriting a tribute of honor in this history of the county in which they so long maintained their home and in which they commanded unqualified popular esteem. Mr. and Mrs. Thom became the parents of five children: Mary Elizabeth died in childhood, having succumbed to an attack of diphtheria while the father was serving as a soldier in the Civil war. Harriet died in infancy. Sarah Adeline resides on her farm estate, in Section 32, Sherman township. Charles is supposed at the time of this writing to be with the American military forces in active service in the great European war, and his only son, James Dale Thom, likewise is in the military service of the nation, he being, in the spring of 1918, stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington, and having won the rank of second lieutenant. This loyal and patriotic young man has received exceptional educational advantages — at Sioux City and Grinnell, Iowa; Chicago and Springfield, Illinois; and in the law school of historic old Harvard University, where he was a student at the time when he volunteered for service in the United States army. James A., a representative farmer of Sherman township, is individually mentioned on other pages.

A man of broad views and mature judgment, Mr. Thom was well fortified for leadership in community sentiment and action, and he was specially influential in public affairs in Sherman township, where he served as township supervisor and township treasurer, as well as a member of the school board. He was a stalwart supporter of the principles of the Republican party and he and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He gave to his children the best of educational advantages, including instruction in the Normal School at Peru, and all three have given added honors to the family name. Miss Sarah A. Thom, who gives her personal supervision to the management of her fine farms, comprising five hundred and sixty-three acres, attended the public schools of Beatrice and was for five years a student in the Nebraska Normal School at Peru. For five years she was an efficient and popular teacher in the schools of Gage county, and she is a gracious gentlewoman whose friends are in number as her acquaintances.

WILLIAM F. LILLIE is a scion of a well known family that was founded in Gage county about three years before the Territory of Nebraska gained the dignity and prerogatives of statehood, and he has been a resident of the county since he was a lad of twelve years, so that his memory forms an indissoluble link between the pioneer days and the present period of opulent prosperity in this favored section of the state. He is now one of the prosperous agriculturists and stock-growers of Rockford township, where he is the owner of a well improved farm estate of forty acres, his home being in Section 14.

William Franklin Lillie was born in the vicinity of the now important industrial city of Akron, Ohio, December 14, 1852, and is a son of Henry D. and Susanna (Phillips) Lillie, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. In 1864 Henry D. Lillie came with his family to Nebraska Territory, the journey having been made with a team and wagon, and he became a pioneer settler in Gage county, where he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres,

in Section 14, Rockford township. His first house was constructed principally from his wagon-box, but in the autumn of the same year he constructed the walls of a substantial stone house, though for several years the roof of the building was of the sod or dirt order so common to the pioneer days. He reclaimed his farm and bore his full share of the burdens incidental to life on the frontier. He was fifty-nine years of age at the time of his death, in 1882, and his widow still resides on the old homestead, she having celebrated the eighty-second anniversary of her birth and being one of the honored pioneer women of the county. She is an earnest member of the Church of the Brethren, as was also her husband. Of the five children the subject of this review is the eldest; David Sylvester is a resident of Fairbury; Belinda is the widow of Joseph Benson and remains with her venerable mother on the old homestead; George is a resident of Fairbury; and of James the address is unknown to the other members of the family at the time of this writing.

William F. Lillie acquired his early education principally in the common schools of Ohio and after the family removal to Nebraska he attended school three terms in a little log school house that was established by the pioneers of Rockford township. He assisted his father in the reclamation and general activities of the home farm and at the age of twenty-two years he initiated his independent operations as a farmer, though he had virtually no financial resources to fortify him and depended entirely upon his own energy and ability in gaining a start in the world. His first land was acquired when he bought forty acres of Hugh J. Dobbs, and this constituted the necleus around which he has developed his present farm property, his original purchase having been made in 1883, prior to which year he had farmed on rented land.

In 1874 Mr. Lillie married Miss Sarah L. Richards, who was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, and who died on the 10th of March, 1884. Of the five children of this union only one is living, William E., who is a progressive farmer in Rockford township. In 1887 Mr. Lillie contracted a second marriage, when Miss Eva May Leming became his wife. She is a daughter of John and Margaret (Lukemires) Leming, who were early settlers in Gage county. At this juncture is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Lillie: Clara is the wife of James Wilson, a prosperous farmer in Franklin county; Henry D. is engaged in farm enterprise in Rockford township; Susan is the wife of Roy Graves, of Kansas City, Missouri; Altheia is the wife of Harry Wenrick, a member of the Dempster department in the city of Beatrice; Earl A., Carrie and John A. remain at the parental home; and Bessie died at the age of fifteen months.

Mr. Lillie has had no desire for political preferment or public office of any kind, but he gives a staunch support to the cause of the Democratic party. His wife and their son John hold membership in the Church of the Brethren.

CALVIN K. HIGGINS is another of the sterling pioneers who has achieved independence and liberal prosperity through many years of active association with farm industry in Gage county, and his admirably improved farm home, in Section 35, Midland township, is in close proximity to the city of Beatrice,—a fine rural demesne that gives full evidence of the thrift and good management that have been brought to bear in its development.

Mr. Higgins is a scion of the staunchest of New England stock in both the paternal and maternal lines and a representative of families early founded in the Pine Tree state, his paternal grandfather, Ephraim Higgins, having been born at Mount Desert, Maine, on the shores of the Atlantic, and having become one of the substantial farmers of his native state, where he passed his entire life, a number of his brothers having become seafaring men. Calvin K. Higgins was born in the town of Pittsfield, Somerset county, Maine, on the 17th of June, 1844, and is a son of Heman and Betsy (Tibbetts) Higgins, who passed their entire lives in the old Pine Tree state, where the father was a farmer by occupation. Mr. Hig-

gins is the eldest in a family of four children; Charity, who became the wife of William Dyer, continued to reside in Maine until her death; George is a prosperous farmer at Clinton, that state; and Mary, the widow of Henry Lancaster, resides at Pittsfield, Maine. In connection with his farm enterprise the father was for a number of years engaged in lumbering operations, felling the timber and running the logs down the streams to the mill. He was a Democrat in politics.

Calvin K. Higgins was not denied in his youth a full measure of experience in connection with the work of the somewhat austere New England farm, and that he made good use of the advantages afforded in the common schools is shown by the fact that as a young man he became a successful and popular teacher in the rural schools of his native state. He taught five winter terms, and during the intervening seasons continued his association with farm work. In 1872 he went to Lowell, Massachusetts, where for one year he was employed as a watchman in a large cotton mill, and in 1875 he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the ambitious young pioneers of Gage county. His resources were such that he was able to purchase forty acres of unimproved land, in Midland township. In the primitive little shanty which he built on his farm he maintained "bachelor's hall," and success attended his activities. He finally sold this place and purchased his present fine farm estate, which comprises one hundred and eighty-four acres and which he had improved with excellent buildings and accessories that mark it as one of the most attractive homesteads of the township, the land being now exceptionally valuable. On his first farm, near Holmesville, he continued to maintain sway as a bachelor for six years and he then took unto himself a companion and helpmeet who has been his earnest coadjutor during the long intervening period and who has shared with him in the joys and sorrows that are the common lot of humanity.

On the 7th of June, 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Higgins to Miss Rebecca Murgatroyd, who was born in the state of Wisconsin, April 3, 1857, and who is a daughter of Emanuel and Ellen (Newson) Murgatroyd. Her parents were born and reared in England, where their marriage was solemnized. They became pioneer settlers in Gage county, Nebraska, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Of their ten children only four are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have six children: May is the wife of Harvey Essam and they reside in Logan township; Charles, a graduate of the Beatrice high school, remains at the parental home and has active management of the farm; Pansy likewise continues a member of the home circle; Edith was graduated in the University of Nebraska, was for two terms a teacher in the schools of her native state and is now in the employ of the government, at Washington, D. C., engaged in the scientific testing of seeds; Grace remains at the parental home; and Julia was graduated in the Nebraska Agricultural College as a member of the class of 1918.

A man of strong mentality and well fortified opinions, Mr. Higgins has been well fortified for leadership in community sentiment and action and has been known as one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of Gage county. He has not been ambitious for public office but has rendered efficient service as a member of the school board of his district and is a Republican in his political allegiance. In connection with his general operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower he has developed a fine dairy herd of Jersey cows, and the milk from the same is sold to appreciative customers in the city of Beatrice.

CHARLES P. HORN, general manager of the well ordered and prosperous lumber business conducted by the S. A. Foster Company in the village of Pickrell, was born at Wood River, Hall county, Nebraska, October 25, 1881, a son of Charles M. and Elizabeth (Schultz) Horn. Of the other children the following brief data are available: Margaret is the wife of O. H. Abraham, of Sterling, Colorado; Anna remains with her widowed mother at Wood River; Henry W. is a resident of Gering, Scotts Bluff county; and Otto

continues his residence at Wood River, the subject of this review having been the second in order of birth.

Charles M. Horn was born in Germany, November 28, 1840, was there reared and educated and was about nineteen years old when he came to America and landed in New York city, in 1859. There he remained until he was moved to manifest his loyalty to the land of his adoption by tendering his services as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. He enlisted, in 1862, in the Sixty-eighth New York Volunteer Infantry, and with this command he served until the close of the war,— a participant in many important battles besides numerous engagements of minor order. In the early '70s he made his way to Arizona Territory, after having previously worked at his trade, that of shoemaker, in a boot and shoe establishment at St. Joseph, Missouri. About the year 1879, Mr. Horn came to Nebraska and established himself in the work of his trade at Wood River. He became one of the successful business men and honored citizens of that place and there remained until his death, which occurred in 1913. His widow still resides at Wood River and through her has been gained the information here recorded concerning his career. He was a man whose intrinsic modesty caused him to say but little concerning his career or the family history, and thus more ample data could not be given for the preparation of this review. Mrs. Horn was born in Germany about 1858, came with her parents to America in the early '70s and the family home was established in Hall county, Nebraska, where she has since resided, her marriage having there been solemnized in 1875.

In the public schools of Wood River Charles P. Horn continued his studies until his graduation in the high school, as a member of the class of 1899. In the same year he found employment in a lumber yard in his native village, but in the autumn of the following year he came to Gage county and entered the employ of the Foster Lumber Company, in the yards which it then conducted at Cortland. In 1902 he was made the manager of the Pickrell lumber yards of the S. A. Foster Company, a position of which he has since continued the efficient and popular incumbent.

September 25, 1907, recorded the marriage of Mr. Horn to Miss Lena E. Lawson, who was born at Beatrice, this county where her parents, William W. and Esther M. (McElroy) Lawson, still maintain their home. Mr. and Mrs Horn have three children,— Lois E., Charles Lawson, and Leon H.

Mr. Horn is known and valued as one of the most alert and progressive young business men of Pickrell and as a loyal and public-spirited citizen. He has given efficient service as a member of the municipal council of the village and also as a member of the board of education. He is a Republican in his political allegiance and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. In the preparation of this history of Gage county Mr. Horn has shown much interest and as a member of the advisory board which has passed upon the various chapters of the history he has given most effective co-operation.

CLARENCE B. KNOX.— At this juncture is consistently accorded recognition to a vigorous and resourceful young business man who is one of the popular citizens of Beatrice and who claims the distinction of being a native son of Nebraska, where he is a scion of the third generation on both the paternal and maternal sides. His energies are well employed in his control of a substantial and prosperous business in the buying and shipping of horses and mules, his activities as a buyer covering a large area of country in this section of the state and the large volume of his business being indicated by the statement that in the fall and winter of 1917 he shipped an average of three or more carloads of horses and mules weekly.

Mr. Knox was born in Seward county, Nebraska, on the 11th of June, 1883, and is a son of Charles D. and Arlepha (Hickman) Knox, who were young folk at the time of the immigration of the respective families to Seward county, where they were reared to

maturity and where their marriage was solemnized. They now reside in the city of Beatrice, where the father conducts a prosperous taxicab and transfer business. Of the four children the subject of this sketch is the eldest; Clara is the wife of Herbert Hand, a successful farmer in Seward county; Fern remains at the parental home; and Eva is the wife of Radford Shelley, proprietor of a well ordered business college at Beatrice. Charles D. Knox is recognized as one of the substantial and representative business men of Beatrice, and concerning him individual record is made in other pages of this volume.

Clarence B. Knox was reared to the sturdy discipline of a pioneer farm in Seward county and his initial experience in independent lines was acquired through his continued association with agricultural and live-stock enterprise. After being thus engaged in independent farming in Seward county for three years he removed to the county seat, Seward, where for two years he was engaged in the livery business. The following two years found him again identified with farm enterprise in that county and he then came to Beatrice and engaged in the buying and shipping of horses and mules, with which line of enterprise he has since continued his successful connection, his energy and progressive policies having enabled him to develop a large and important business in which his personal popularity and fair and honorable dealings constitute definite assets. His early education was obtained in the public schools of his native county and has been effectively supplemented by that gained in the practical school of experience. He is a Republican and takes loyal interest in public affairs, especially those of local significance.

The year 1906 recorded the marriage of Mr. Knox to Miss Ada Wickersham, of Seward, this state, and their only child is a fine little son, Bayard Charles, who was born in the year 1909.

JOHN H. WAYMAN.— In Clatonia township John Henry Wayman resides upon and gives his able supervision to a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres which he rents from the Steinmeyer estate, and he is the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Lincoln county, Nebraska, as well as of property in the village of Clatonia.

Mr. Wayman was born at Longrun, Licking county, Ohio, on the 9th of May, 1872, a son of Henry and Sophia (Heisner) Wayman, the former of whom died in Holt county, Nebraska, in 1907, at the age of eighty-two years and eleven months, and the latter of whom still resides in that county, she being sixty-eight years of age in 1918.

Henry Wayman was born and reared in Germany and was a young man when he came to America and settled in Ohio. In that state he continued his residence until 1884, when he came with his family to Nebraska and established his home at Centerville, Lincoln county. Later he came to Gage county and engaged in farming in Grant township, where he remained until his removal to Holt county. His first wife died when comparatively a young woman and of their children six are now living, namely: William, a resident of Arizona; Mrs. Mary Emerich, of Sedalia, Missouri; Frederick, a resident of Colorado; Eliza, wife of John Spellman, of Adams county, Nebraska; Mrs. Lizzie Pelzer, of Holt county, this state; and Henry J., who is a prosperous farmer of Holt county. Of the children of Henry and Sophia (Heisner) Wayman the eldest is Agusta, who is the wife of George Bohl, of Antelope county, Nebraska; John R., subject of this review, was the next in order of birth; Louis is a resident of Holt county; Flora died in childhood; and Charles is a resident of Antelope county. The twin sister of Augusta died in infancy.

John H. Wayman was about twelve years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska and he was reared principally on his father's farm in Clatonia township, Gage county, where in the meanwhile he profited by the advantages of the district schools. He has exceptional mechanical ability and in earlier years he gave much of his attention to work at the carpenter's trade, though as early as 1894 he began independent farm operations,

on rented land. In 1911 he rented his present farm and here he has continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower, the while he gives also a general supervision to the improving and directing of the farm which he owns in Lincoln county. He has had no desire for political activity of any kind but gives his allegiance to the Republican party.

November 2, 1893, recorded the marriage of Mr. Wayman to Miss Katherine Menke, who was born in Ohio, and who came as a child to Nebraska, she being a daughter of Henry and Eliza (Knapp) Menke, the former of whom is deceased and the latter of whom remains on the old home farm, near Clatonia, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Wayman became the parents of five children, of whom the first-born, August, died at the age of twenty months; Albert, who became associated in the work of the home farm, is in the cantonment of the national army at San Antonio, Texas, in the spring of 1918, making ready to go to the battlefields of Europe; Harvey died at the age of three years; and Ellen and Henry are members of the gracious home circle.

CARL HAWES.—One of the fine farm properties of Grant township is that to which Mr. Hawes is giving his careful and effective supervision, the same comprising two hundred and forty acres, in Section 28, and constituting property that was inherited by his mother from the estate of her father. With him on the homestead remain his younger brothers and sisters and in his independent activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower he has definite classification among the successful and progressive farmers of the younger generation in his native county.

Mr. Hawes was born on his present homestead farm, February 1, 1894, and is a son of the late John and Jane E. (Plucknett) Hawes, of whose ten children he was the fifth in order of birth, brief data concerning the other children being here offered: Mary is the wife of Wright Truesdell, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Ada is the wife of Daniel Morford, of Omaha; Alexander is now a resident of northwest Canada; William resides at Fairfield, Clay county, Nebraska; Robert is associated with the subject of this review in the work and management of the home farm, while their sister Ruth graciously directs the domestic economies of the home, with the aid of her younger sister, Clara; and Lloyd and Frank are the younger members of the family circle.

John Hawes was born at Glenwood, Mills county, Iowa, June 18, 1853, and was a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of the Hawkeye state. He was a son of Thomas and Isabelle (Stevens) Hawes, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Illinois, in which last mentioned state their marriage was solemnized. Thomas Hawes became one of the early settlers in Mills county, Iowa, where he reclaimed a farm from the virgin prairie, but after a number of years he came with his family to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Saline county. There he entered claim to a homestead, southwest of Wilber, and he became one of the representative farmers of that locality, his wife having died at Dewitt, Saline county, and he having been a resident of Oklahoma at the time of his death, so that his pioneer experience had touched three of the now great and prosperous states of the Union.

John Hawes was the eldest in a family of five children and was a lad of nine years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska Territory, in the early '60s. He was reared under the discipline of the pioneer farm in Saline county, where eventually he became the owner of land and engaged in independent farm enterprise. Later he had the management of the farm inherited by his wife in Gage county and he was one of the substantial farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Grant township at the time of his death, which occurred June 1, 1908. He was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of Phythias and both he and his wife were active communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church, his political support having been given to the Republican party. Mrs. Jane E. (Plucknett) Hawes was born

in Grant township, this county, December 7, 1863, and was summoned to eternal rest on the 29th of August, 1914. She was a daughter of William and Caroline (Hawlett) Plucknett, both natives of England and both numbered among the prominent and honored pioneers of Gage county, where Mr. Plucknett developed one of the largest and best landed estates in the county: he was at one time the owner of about two thousand acres of land, principally in Grant township, and was known and valued as one of the strong, worthy and influential pioneer citizens of this section of Nebraska, he having established his residence in Gage county in 1861, and both he and his wife having here passed the closing years of their lives, after having previously gained pioneer experience in the state of Iowa.

Carl Hawes has been actively associated with farm enterprise from his early youth, was afforded the advantages of the public schools, and since the death of his mother he has had the active management of the splendid farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is given over to diversified agriculture and stock-growing and is a part of one of the historic pioneer estates of Gage county. He is a Republican in politics and he and his brothers and sisters retain the ancestral religious faith — that represented in America by the Protestant Episcopal church.

THOMAS MAYBORN, who is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, gained independence and substantial prosperity through his association with farm enterprise in Gage county and is a citizen who commands the fullest measure of popular confidence and good will. Lasting honor shall rest upon his name by reason of the service which he gave as a gallant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, and he is one of the valued members of Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, in the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Mayborn was born in Dover, England, not far distant from the city of London, and the date of his nativity, was November 19, 1844. He is a son of Thomas and Caroline (Harding) Mayborn, members of sterling old English families, and he was a lad of about four years at the time of his parents' immigration to the United States, settlement being first made in Oneida county, New York, but about eighteen months later removal being made to Stark county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farm enterprise and where his death occurred when the subject of this review was but seven years of age. Both he and his wife were communicants of the established Church of England and upon coming to the United States naturally affiliated themselves with its American exponent of the same faith, the Protestant Episcopal church. Of the six children three are living, Thomas, of this review, being the eldest of the number; James is a substantial farmer in Washington county, Kansas; and Alfred is president of the Diller State Bank, at Diller, Jefferson county, Nebraska. Thomas Mayborn, Sr., was about forty-five years of age at the time of his death and his widow passed the closing period of her life with her sons, in Gage county, Nebraska, where she died at the venerable age of eighty-one years.

He whose name initiates this review acquired his early education in the public schools of Illinois and was a mere lad when he began to apply himself earnestly in aiding in the support of his widowed mother and the other members of the family, he having been the eldest of the children. He was actively associated with farming operations in Illinois at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war and promptly showed his intrinsic loyalty by tendering his services in defence of the Union. On the 25th of September, 1861, while on a visit in the old Empire state, he enlisted as a private in Company A, Fourteenth New York Volunteer Infantry, with which command he proceeded to the front. At the battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia, July 1, 1862, he was wounded in the right thigh, by a minie ball, and while lying helpless on the battlefield he was captured by the enemy. He was taken to Libby Prison, of infamous historical record, but fortunately was released from this bastile after he had there been held as a prisoner of war for twenty-seven days. The effects of his wound inca-

pacitated him for further service in the field, and, much to his regret, he was compelled to retire from the army, an honorable discharge having been given to him in December, 1862. He then returned to Stark county, Illinois, and for more than a year thereafter he was unable to do any active work.

Mr. Mayborn continued his residence in Illinois until 1875, when he removed to Page county, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming for the ensuing six years. In the spring of 1881 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Glenwood township, and instituted its improvement and cultivation. He developed the place into one of the valuable farm properties of the county and still owns the farm, his attention having been given largely to the raising of live stock, but diversified agriculture having not been neglected by him during the period of his residence on the farm. He erected good buildings on the farm and he now rents the place to good effect. In 1903 he and his wife removed to the city of Beatrice, where they have an attractive home and where he has since lived practically retired, in the enjoyment of the rewards of former years of earnest and worthy endeavor.

In Stark county, Illinois, on the 9th of April, 1865, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mayborn to Miss Rebecca Jerrems, who was born in Oneida county, New York, a daughter of James and Ann (Carter) Jerrems, natives of England, whence they came to the United States in the early '30s. Mrs. Mayborn was born April 5, 1845, and her death occurred August 1, 1890, she having been a devout member of the Christian church. She is survived by four children: William resides in Beatrice and is a traveling salesman of agricultural implements and machinery; James A. is a successful farmer in Ogle county, Illinois; George is associated with William Lyndes in the meat-market business at Beatrice; and C. H. is cashier in a banking institution at Brush, Colorado.

On the 25th of April, 1901, Mr. Mayborn contracted a second marriage, when Mrs. Frances Jane (Black) Hill became his wife. She is the widow of John L. Hill and has three children by her first marriage: Raymond is a carpenter by trade and is a successful contractor and builder at National City, California; Bessie is the wife of Lloyd Willis, of Beatrice, her husband having recently been called to enter service with the national army being prepared for service in the great European war; and Laura, who remains with her mother, is assistant librarian of the Beatrice public library. Mrs. Mayborn is an earnest and zealous communicant of Christ church, and is the popular chatelaine of one of the pleasant homes of the Gage county metropolis and judicial center.

Mr. Mayborn is a staunch advocate of the principles of the Republican party and while residing on his farm he served several years as treasurer of the school board, in Glenwood township.

ISAAC B. MITTAN. — The frontier line has been pushed farther and farther west until to-day we have no frontier line, and this progress of civilization has been accomplished so slowly and imperceptibly by the pioneer men and women who braved the hardships of their crude surroundings to make homes for themselves and to win the wild wastes of fertility that ere we knew it there was no frontier line. For fifty years Isaac B. Mittan has lived on Gage county soil and has experienced the revelation of wild unbroken prairies being replaced by fertile farms and modern cities and industries. Instead of the slow, deliberate oxen wending their way across the plains, there now dashes through the night the fast midnight express, and it has all come so imperceptibly that it seems to be a revelation.

Isaac B. Mittan was born in Lee county, Illinois, March 4, 1851, a son of Daniel C. and Martha (Fuller) Mittan, who were married in Pennsylvania and were among the earliest settlers of Lee county, Illinois, where they were active in farm enterprise from 1849 to 1868, in which latter year they started across the prairies with slow driven horse teams for the land of Nebraska. They crossed the Mis-

MR. AND MRS. ISAAC B. MITTAN

souri river May 1st, at Brownville, and reached their destination in Gage county May 3d. For two weeks they camped on Cedar creek, while the father and sons walked over the plains to select the best homestead. Their selection was one hundred and sixty acres in Section 28, Rockford township — the present fine home farm of the subject of this review. A small frame building was erected and this was the home of the parents until their death. Daniel C. Mittan was seventy-eight years old at the time of his demise and his widow passed away at the venerable age of eighty-seven years. Mr. Mittan was a Civil war veteran, enlisting for the one hundred days' service, but he followed the flag and continued in active service for one year. He was a staunch Republican and both he and his good wife were devoted members of the Methodist church. The following children were born to them: Elvira, deceased, was the wife of Harvey Howard, who was a homesteader of Gage county; Phoebe, deceased, was the wife of James S. Pease and lived in Rockford township; Isaac B. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Horace was a resident of Cedar county, Nebraska, at the time of his death; William, unmarried, resides in Sherman township; Jacob is deceased; Asa lives in Dawes county, Nebraska; and Samuel died in childhood.

Isaac B. Mittan attended the schools of Illinois and also of Gage county. Among his schoolmates in this county was Hugh J. Dobbs, the author of this history of the county.

Mr. Mittan has farmed in Gage county all of the years of his residence with the exception of four years spent in Missouri. By purchasing the interests of the other members of the family he has become in possession of the original homestead. He has improved the first frame house and has erected on the place the attractive house which is now the place of his abode.

Mr. Mittan was married, in Gage county, to Miss Elizabeth Meyers, born in Wisconsin March 24, 1854. She is a daughter of Valentine and Roxana Meyers, who settled in Rockford township, Gage county, in 1870, and both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Mittan passed away in 1911, there being only ten days' lapse between the death of the wife and the mother of Mr. Mittan. Following is brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Mittan: Elmer resides in Loup county, Nebraska; Nelson resides in Virginia, Gage county; Chartes married Bertha McKinney and they have five children; Clyde, unmarried, lives in Virginia, this county; Ada is the wife of LeRoy Ayre, living in Dickinson county, Kansas; Adra and Lester died in infancy.

Isaac B. Mittan has retired from active farming and makes his home with his son Chartes, who is operating the farm. Mr. Mittan is a Republican in politics, and is one of the well known pioneer settlers of Gage county.

GEORGE L. MUMFORD.— The family of which this successful and popular citizen of Beatrice is a scion is one that has in its various generations gained marked pioneer distinction in connection with the march of development and progress in the great American republic. He whose name initiates this review has been a resident of Gage county from the time of his birth, is a representative of an influential pioneer family that was founded in the county in the early territorial period, and the name which he bears has been one of significant prominence in connection with the annals of advancement in Gage county. Further data attesting to this fact may be found not only in the department of this work specifically devoted to the history of the county but also in connection with the personal mention of other contemporary representatives of the family, three brothers of the name having established homes in this favored section of the state within the decade of the '60s.

On the old homestead farm of his father, in Logan township, this county, George L. Mumford was born April 19, 1878, and he is a son of Jacob and Annie (Newton) Mumford, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Pennsylvania. The first wife of Jacob Mumford bore the family name of Lin-

sey, and of the children of this union two are living,— William B., a resident of Pickrell, Gage county, and Mrs. Emma Dearborn, of Los Angeles, California. To Jacob and Annie (Newton) Mumford were born four children, and of the three surviving the subject of this review is the eldest; John is one of the prosperous farmers of this county; Estella died at the age of twelve years; and Oliver likewise is numbered among the representative farmers of Gage county.

Jacob Mumford was a son of William Mumford and was a youth at the time of the family immigration from Maryland to Ohio, his father having died while en route to the new home and his remains having been laid to rest in the state of Pennsylvania. In Ohio Jacob Mumford continued his association with agricultural industry until he numbered himself among the pioneer farmers of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and in that state was solemnized his marriage to Miss Annie Newton, a daughter of John Newton, who was born in England and who became one of the early settlers of Wisconsin, where he passed the remainder of his life. Jacob Mumford continued his residence in the Badger state until 1865, when he came with his family to Nebraska and established his residence on a pioneer farm in Gage county, his eldest brother, Ismay Mumford, having settled here in 1860, and having been elected the first treasurer of Gage county, his son Dawson having been the first white child born in the county. Jacob Mumford entered claim to government land and eventually became the owner of a fine landed estate of six hundred acres. He reclaimed and developed one of the fine farm properties of the county, was a citizen of worth and influence, did much to further civic and industrial advancement and served in various local positions of public trust, including that of member of the board of county commissioners, an office of which he was the incumbent for several terms. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party, his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church and his second wife was a devoted member of the Christian church.

George L. Mumford passed the period of his childhood and early youth on the home farm, and in this connection gained lasting appreciation of the dignity and value of honest toil and endeavor. In the public schools he continued his studies until he had been graduated in the high school in the city of Beatrice, as a member of the class of 1897, and that he made good use of the advantages thus afforded is demonstrated by the effective service which he gave as a popular teacher in the district schools, his pedagogic endeavors having continued for two years. Thereafter he was actively concerned in farm enterprise in his native county for six years, at the expiration of which he was associated for eight years in the conducting of a general store at Pickrell, Nebraska. In 1915 Mr. Mumford engaged in the retail grocery business in the city of Beatrice, where he has a well equipped and thoroughly modern establishment and has developed a substantial and representative enterprise, so that he has status as one of the progressive merchants of the city and as one of the vigorously loyal and public-spirited citizens of his native county, where his circle of friends is limited only by that of his acquaintances. His political proclivities are indicated in the staunch support which he gives the cause of the Republican party, he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church, and he is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

The year 1900 recorded the marriage of Mr. Mumford to Miss Alice Smith, who likewise was born and reared in this county, and they have three children,— Hermina, Gertrude and Helen. The eldest daughter was a member of the class of 1918 in the Beatrice high school and the younger daughters are still students in the public schools of their home city.

GEORGE B. HILTON, who is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, his attractive home being at 923 Grant street, has been a resident of Nebraska for more than thirty years and of Gage county since 1890. Until

his removal to the county seat he was a progressive farmer in Riverside township, and in the city of Beatrice he served about two years as street commissioner, from which office he retired in 1911.

Mr. Hilton claims the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity and is a scion of one of the early pioneer families of that commonwealth. He was born at Brunersburg, Defiance county, Ohio, on the 20th of November, 1847, and is a son of Benjamin and Catherine (Bruner) Hilton. Benjamin Hilton was born in Adams county, Ohio, September 20, 1820, his parents having immigrated to Ohio from Somerset county, Maine, and having first settled in Hamilton county. They made the greater part of the journey from New England to the pioneer west by water route, passed down the Ohio river and up the St. Mary's river in boats hewed out of logs,— primative vehicles of transporation commonly designated as pirogues. Later removal was made to the vicinity of Defiance, Ohio, and here the family occupied a little shanty for the first year, the meals having been cooked out of doors, over a fire set burning near a large log. Benjamin Hilton utilized the primitive shanty only till such time as he could complete the manufacturing of sufficient brick to erect a more pretentious domicile, both he and his wife having been sterling and resourceful pioneers of Ohio, as were also the maternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch — Daniel and Catherine Bruner, who established their residence in Defiance county, where the village of Brunersburg was named in honor of the family and where the mother of George B. Hilton was born and reared. Benjamin Hilton received the advantages of the common schools of the pioneer days in Ohio and as a lad he assisted in the general store conducted by one of his older brothers. Later he engaged in the general merchandise business at Brunersburg, besides being identified with farm enterprise, and he continued thus engaged until the time of his death, which occurred November 5, 1865, his widow having survived him by about seven years. The eldest of their eight children was Thomas, who was a resident of Beatrice at the time of his death, in March, 1916; George, of this review, was the second son; Ora died in childhood; Mary Etta was a resident of Brunersburg, Ohio, at the time of her death; Clara is the widow of Dr. A. L. Elder and resides at Hebron, Thayer county, Nebraska; Dora is the wife of Ira Payne, of Reynolds, Jefferson county; Florence died when about eight years of age; and Alice is the wife of Wiley D. Fisher, of Litchfield, Sherman county, Nebraska.

George B. Hilton is indebted to the common schools of the old Buckeye state for his early educational discipline and from his boyhood until he became a young man he assisted in the work of a farm of forty-seven acres that was owned by his father. He then went to the city of Defiance, Ohio, where he was employed in a flour mill until 1867, the ensuing period of about two years having found him engaged as clerk in a mercantile establishment in that place. He then returned to the farm previously mentioned and he there continued his activities as an agriculturist until 1885, when he came to Nebraska and purchased a tract of railroad land in Thayer county. There he continued his farm operations until 1890, when he sold the property, upon which he had made good improvements, and came to Gage county. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 26, Riverside township, and this property he developed into one of the fine farms of that part of the county. On the homestead he continued his successful enterprise as an agriculturist and stock-raiser until 1907, since which time he has lived retired in the city of Beatrice, save that, as before stated, he gave about two years to effective service in the office of street commissioner. He is found arrayed as a loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

At Defiance, Ohio, on the 18th of November, 1867, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hilton to Miss Elizabeth Lorah, who was born and reared in Noble county, that state, a daughter of Samuel and Charlotte Lorah.

In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Hilton: Ella M. died at the age of thirty-eight years and Curtis at the age of nineteen years; Lottie is at home; LeRoy died in early childhood; Mildred is the widow of the late Hugo H. Lueblen: she resides at Beatrice and she has one son, Elwood, eight years of age in 1918. The eldest daughter, Ella, became the wife of Frederick A. Riddell, of Columbus, Platte county, and she is survived by three children, —John and Frederick (Ted), who were students in the University of Nebraska, the latter having been one of the star members of the university football team, known as the "Cornhuskers," and both he and his brother, John, are now serving loyally in the United States Navy department, in connection with the nation's participation in the great European war.

ANTON BERAN.— Among the first settlers on what was formerly the Otoe Indian reservation was Anton Beran, who has resided on his present farm, in Glenwood township, since the spring of 1878.

Anton Beran is a native of the province of Bohemia, in the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, where he was born March 14, 1843. His parents, John and Anna Beran passed their entire lives in Bohemia and both died prior to the time when their son Anton started for America.

In 1868 Anton Beran came to the United States and settled in Washington county, Iowa, where he continued to reside until the Otoe Indian reservation was opened for settlement in Gage county, Nebraska, and in the spring of 1878 he here purchased eighty acres of government land, in section 35, Glenwood township. Not a tree or a wagon track in sight, nothing but prairie grass as far as the eye could see. Here he built a little frame house, and some years later his brother-in-law, who was also an early settler, wanted to sell out, so Mr. Beran bought eighty acres from him, in section 36, so that to-day he owns a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. His success has come to him as the result of his own efforts and those of his boys, who began to give valuable aid as soon as they were old enough to work.

Mr. Beran owned some small lots in the old town of Richmond, Washington county, Iowa, and when he decided to locate in Nebraska he sold these. The modest sum of money he thus obtained was all he had when he located in Gage county. After locating his land here he was making the trip back to Iowa, and as he had no money he was obliged to set forth on foot. However, through the kindness of a trainman running east out of Omaha, he was given a free ride. Mr. Beran has always felt grateful for that kindness and delights in telling of it when talking about the experiences of those early days, when he was poor.

Mr. Beran has been twice married. His first wife was Pauline Shalla, who died in Gage county the year after he located here. His present wife was Josephine Beran. Of the first union were born three children, Joseph, Frank, and a baby girl who died in Iowa. Of the second union were born three children, Van, Tony and Margaret.

Mr. Beran is a Republican in politics and has served as school director, but he has held no other public office. Though he has passed his seventy-fifth birthday he is still hale and hearty and can be found any day doing work about the farm. This place has been his home for forty years and he well deserves this recognition in the history of Gage county.

WILLIAM F. ROSZELL, who now lives retired in the city of Beatrice, came to Gage county nearly forty years ago and his career has been marked by productive activity during the intervening period, the while he is known and honored as a man of sterling character and as a loyal and progressive citizen.

William Franklin Roszell was born in Miami county, Ohio, in the year 1857, and is a son of David and Sarah (Howell) Roszell, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Ohio, the closing years of their lives having been passed at Fletcher, Ohio. David Roszell was a son of David and Elizabeth (Brown) Roszell, and his wife was a daughter

of Stephen B. and Polly (Hopkins) Howell. The subject of this review was reared and educated in the old Buckeye state and there learned in his youth the trade of harnessmaker. As a skilled artisan at his trade he continued to follow the same in Ohio until 1882, when he came to Nebraska and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land, in Paddock township, Gage county. He initiated the reclamation and improvement of this farm and there continued his activities four years, at the expiration of which he sold the property and established himself in the harness and saddlery business in the village Lanham, this county. Later he conducted for a number of years a hotel in that village, besides which he served as postmaster at Lanham during the four years of President Cleveland's second term. Finally he disposed of his property and business at Lanham and purchased improved realty in the city of Lincoln, but within a short time thereafter he returned to Gage county and established his residence in Beatrice, where he has since maintained his home, the family residence being at 1510 Ella street. In politics Mr. Roszell is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and for many years he and his wife have been active members of the Christian church.

In Shelby county, Ohio, the year 1873 recorded the marriage of Mr. Roszell to Miss Olive Hageman, who was born and reared in that county, and of the six children of this union only two are living,—Ralph R., who owns and conducts a leading photographic art store and studio in the city of Beatrice, and Hazel B., who is the wife of Harry Irvine, of this city.

SAMUEL F. NICHOLS, a prosperous farmer and stock-grower of Riverside township, was born at Osage, Iowa, November 9, 1874, and is a son of Martin Van Buren Nichols, of whom individual mention is made on other pages. In the prosecution of his extensive operations as a farmer and stock raiser Mr. Nichols utilizes one thousand acres of land, an appreciable proportion of which is owned by him. He is one of the leading breeders of Holstein cattle in Gage county and now ships an average of eight carloads of cattle and swine each year, his activities in previous years having involved the shipment of an average of forty carloads of cattle.

Mr. Nichols was reared and educated in his native place and in the public schools of San Diego, California, where the family home was maintained for some time. In 1891 his parents established their home at Beatrice, Nebraska, and here Samuel F. was graduated in the high school, in 1895, after which he completed a preparatory course in Columbia University, in New York city. In 1896 he was matriculated in the law department of the great University of Michigan, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1898 and with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. In the same year he manifested his patriotism by enlisting for service in the Spanish-American war, in which he served six month, as a member of Company A, Thirty-first Michigan Volunteer Infantry. In 1900 Mr. Nichols associated himself with the Albany Linen Mills, at Albany, Wisconsin, and for two years he held the position of manager of the business. In 1902 he returned to Gage county, Nebraska, where he has since been actively identified with farm enterprise. In 1906 he purchased his present fine homestead ranch, and upon the place he has made the best of modern improvements, including the erection of an attractive bungalow, which is lighted by electricity and provided with hot and cold water system.

On the 12th of November, 1907, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Nichols to Miss Marie Roe, who was born at Odell, this county, and is a daughter of Dr. George L. and Ida L. (Thompson) Roe, natives respectively of Kentucky and Wisconsin, Dr. Roe having for many years been one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Beatrice and having tendered, in May, 1918, his professional service to the government in connection with war activities. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have four children, whose names and dates of nativity are here indicated: Ruth, October 20, 1908;

Martin Van Buren, September 21, 1910; Dorothy, August 16, 1914; and Margaret, June 13, 1917.

Though he has found his technical training of great value in connection with his business activities Mr. Nichols has never engaged in the practice of law. He is a Republican in his political allegiance and is essentially vital and public-spirited in his civic attitude. He is actively affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including Beatrice Commandery of Knights Templars, and he and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church.

ABIJAH S. SHERWOOD, who is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, with a pleasant home at 1522 High street, is the owner of a well improved farm estate of two hundred acres, in Section 19, Filley township, and has been a successful exponent of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in Gage county, his removal from the farm to Beatrice having taken place in October, 1910.

Mr. Sherwood was born in Marshall county, Illinois, March 17, 1856, and is the fourth in a family of five sons and two daughters born to Abijah S. and Elizabeth (McCune) Sherwood. For his second wife the father married Margaret McCord, and they became the parents of three daughters. After the death of his second wife he married Mary Correll, and of this union was born one son.

Abijah S. Sherwood, Sr., was born in the state of New York, April 23, 1822, and his death occurred June 30, 1894. He became a substantial farmer and extensive landholder, and it is to be noted that in 1876 he purchased land in Gage county, Nebraska, besides which he accumulated land also in Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, the closing years of his life having been passed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm and acquired his early education in the public schools of Illinois and the city of Topeka, Kansas, the family home having been maintained at intervals in various communities and Mr. Sherwood thus having attended school in several different localities. At the opening of Oklahoma to settlement Mr. Sherwood's father was one of those who made the historic "run," and he aided in the initial development of Oklahoma City, where he assisted also in the organization of the first Presbyterian church. In 1876 he whose name introduces this review returned to Illinois, where he continued to operate one of his father's farms until the autumn of 1883, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska. In the following year he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, and this constituted the nucleus around which he has developed his present valuable landed estate in this county.

In politics Mr. Sherwood is a staunch Republican and while on his farm he represented for one term Filley township on the board of county supervisors. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has served as a trustee. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders.

October 16, 1879, recorded the marriage of Mr. Sherwood to Miss Esther Dixon, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, December 21, 1858, a daughter of Hampton S. and Jane (Tullis) Dixon. Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood have had two children: Edna, who is the wife of Merrill Ramsey, of Petersburg, Texas, their marriage having been solemnized in January, 1903, and their three children being Merryl, Blanche and Sherwood. Mrs. Ramsey was graduated in the Filley high school and is a skilled musician, she having been a successful teacher of music prior to her marriage. Ralph H. Sherwood was a fine young man of twenty-nine years when he met a tragic death, in 1914, he having been killed by lightning. He was for two years a student in the law department of the University of Nebraska, and in June, 1910, he married Miss Cicely May Fenton, who survives him and who is now assistant librarian of the library of the law department of the University of Colorado, at Boulder.

CURTIS C. LA FORGE. — Agricultural industry in Gage county has a worthy repre-

sentative in the subject of this record, and he is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising in Section 8, Midland township, both departments of his farm enterprise bringing him gratifying returns.

Mr. La Forge claims the fine old Bluegrass state as the place of his nativity, as he was born in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, on the 20th of December, 1876. He is a son of Nathan P. and Demaris (Dooley) La Forge, both likewise natives of Kentucky, where they were reared and educated. The conditions and influences that compassed Nathan P. La Forge during the period of his youth were such that when the Civil war was precipitated on a divided nation his sympathies were naturally with the cause of the south. Consequently he showed his loyalty by enlisting in the Confederate ranks, and he served as captain of cavalry in the command of the famous General Morgan. He fought faithfully and valiantly in defense of what he believed to be a righteous cause, survived the shock and storm of conflict and lived to rejoice finally in the fact that the integrity of the nation had been preserved. He became a successful contractor after the war and continued his activities along this line until his death, which occurred April 24, 1899, at Kansas City, Missouri, where he had built up a substantial business as a contractor. He was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death and his widow now resides in Kansas City. Five of the brothers of Mrs. LaForge were soldiers of the Confederacy in the Civil war.

Curtis C. LaForge acquired his preliminary education in the schools of his native city and after the family removal to Kansas City, Missouri, he there continued his studies in the public schools, besides which he supplemented this training by a course in the Kansas City Business College. Thereafter he associated himself with a wholesale drug house in Kansas City, and he continued to be thus employed for fifteen years.

In 1911 Mr. La Forge came to Nebraska and located at Beatrice. Here, on the 21st of June of that year, was solemnized his marriage ot Miss Daisie G. VanBoskirk, a daughter of Lincoln and Celia (Freer) Van Boskirk, a record concerning whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. La Forge received as a heritage from her father a quarter-section of land and soon after their marriage she and her husband established their home on this place. On the same they have erected a commodious modern residence, besides good barns and other farm buildings. Here Mr. LaForge is successfully carrying forward his operations in diversified agriculture and stock-growing, and he is recognized as one of the enterprising and wideawake farmers of Midland township. He and his wife have a fine little son, Curtis C., Jr., who was born July 12, 1914. The family home is known for its generous hospitality and good cheer and Mr. and Mrs. La Forge have a host of friends, both being held in high esteem by all who know them. In politics Mr. LaForge retains the ancestral faith and gives his support to the cause of the Democratic party.

RALPH R. ROSZELL exemplifies in his finely appointed studio in the city of Beatrice the highest types of photographic art, and he has long held secure prestige as one of the leading photographists of the west. He is a representative of one of the early pioneer families of Nebraska and was born on the old Otoe Indian reservation, the place of his nativity having been near the present village of Odell, Gage county. He was but two years of age when his parents removed to what is now Lanham, Washington county, Kansas, a locality at that time included in Nebraska. There he acquired his preliminary educational discipline and when he was twelve years old the family removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he attended the public schools and where he learned the art of photography while a mere boy. He was but sixteen years old when he opened his first photographic studio, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to which place his parents had removed, and this little studio was located at the corner of Fourteenth and O streets. Later he established a larger and better equipped studio at 1238 O street, and in connection with the same he conducted also

studios at Ashland and Trenton. In 1905 a chemical explosion which occurred while he was working in his photographic laboratory so injured him as to necessitate the amputation of his left hand, but this injury in no degree curbed his professional enthusiasm or his self-reliance. After remaining at the parental home for twelve days he resumed work, by opening a new studio in Beatrice, at 509-½ Court street, this being known as the Roszell Elite Studio and being equipped with the most approved of modern facilities for the issuing of high-grade photographic work of all kinds,— portrait, commercial, view, landscape, etc. Mr. Roszell has nearly a dozen handsome gold and silver medals that have been awarded to him for his exhibits at state and national photographic conventions, and when but seventeen years of age he had gained high national rating as a professional photographist, his record for exceptional ability having been one of cumulative prestige since that time.

In 1915 Mr. Roszell amplified his field of enterprise by engaging in the handling of photographic supplies of all kinds, as well as artists' materials, and he has developed a prosperous business which extends through Nebraska and Kansas and to a certain extent outside of this territory. He continues to give, however, his close personal supervision to his studio in Beatrice, and the same is now located at 616 Court street. His patronage in all departments of his well organized business is of representative order and he is one of the best known photographists in Nebraska. He has served three terms as secretary of the Nebraska Professional Photographers' Association, and he perfected himself in his profession by a course of instruction in Washington University, in the city of St. Louis, besides having gained technical experience in a number of the foremost photographic studios in Lincoln and other cities.

Mr. Roszell is the son of William F. and Olive Roszell, pioneers of Gage county, who first settled on the old Otoe reservation land east of Odell, this county. A sketch of the career of his father appears on other pages of this volume.

In 1912 Mr. Roszell married Miss Leah A. Sonderegger, daughter of Carl Sonderegger, a well known pioneer of Gage county. They have two children. Richard Ralph and Kathryn Eulula.

Mr. Roszell had the honor of photographing Mr. Hugh Dobbs, the author of this volume, whose portrait appears in the front of this book.

C. M. SMITH is another of the sterling citizens who has achieved definite prosperity through connection with agricultural and livestock industry in Gage county, and after having borne the trials and responsibilities of pioneer life in Nebraska and making his way through his own efforts to the goal of success, he is now living in well earned retirement, in the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Smith is a scion of a family that was founded in New England in the colonial era of our national history, and is a descendant of Joshua Smith who came from England in company with his brother Edward and established a home in Connecticut, prior to the war of the Revolution. He whose name initiates this sketch was born in Orleans county, New York, on the 18th of November, 1846, and is a son of Beriah H. and Philena (Morton) Smith, the former having been born near Hartford, Connecticut, June 11, 1803, and the latter having been born in South Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1811. The parents were wedded in Massachusetts, in January, 1829, and thereafter removed to the state of New York, where the father for many years operated a boat on the historic old Erie canal. In the autumn of 1847 Beriah H. Smith removed with his family to Illinois and became a pioneer farmer in Putnam county, where he took up government land and developed a productive farm, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives in that state, where he died November 2, 1889, his wife having passed away in the preceding year and having been a devoted member of the Congregational church, his religious views having been in

harmony with the tenents of the Universalist church and his political support having been given to the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, when he transferred his allegiance to the latter. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, was a man of superior mental endowments. He was called to serve in various township offices in Illinois and was one of the honored pioneer citizens of that state at the time of his death. Of the nine children of Beriah H. and Philena (Morton) Smith only three are now living,—Edward, who is engaged in the blacksmith business at Cortland, Gage county; C. M., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Augusta, who resides at Pickrell, this county.

C. M. Smith was reared on his father's pioneer farm in Illinois and in his youth made good use of the advantages afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. He continued his alliance with farm industry in Illinois until 1870, in March of which year he came to Nebraska and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Nuckolls county. There he remained until he had perfected his title to the property, and he then established his home in Gage county. He developed a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Blakely township, made the best of improvements on the place and there continued his residence until 1877 when he moved to a farm in Logan township. This he improved and here he resided until 1912, when he purchased another farm in Logan township,—a property which he still owns. In October, 1915, he retired and with his wife established his home in Beatrice, where they are enjoying the rewards of former years of earnest endeavor. They are zealous members of the Christian church and in politics he gives unswerving allegiance to the Republican party. While on his farm he served as township trustee and clerk for a number of terms each, and was for many years a member of the school board of his district.

March 16, 1873, recorded the marriage of Mr. Smith to Miss Sarah Pethoud, of Gage county, she being a daughter of Thomas and Maria Pethoud, natives of Ohio and territorial pioneers in Nebraska. Mr. Pethoud came with his family to Gage county in 1857, nearly a decade prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and he settled on his pioneer farm six miles north of Beatrice, where both he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Smith: Clara is the wife of Gardner Berry, a prosperous farmer in Riverside township; Helen remains at the parental home; Alice is the wife of G. L. Mumford, of whom individual mention is made on other pages; Elsie became the wife of William Barnard, of Beatrice, and her death occurred in 1914; Sarah Antoinette remains with her parents; Eleanor is the wife of C. E. Thornburg, a farmer in Midland township; and Howard has the active management of his father's farm.

GERHARD WIEBE. — There are many interesting points in the career of this representative citizen of Beatrice, where he developed a substantial dry-goods business and where he still retains his interest in the same, though he has given its active management over to his sons and is living virtually retired, his attractive home being at 715 North Sixth street.

Mr. Wiebe was born in the district of Danzig, Prussia, in May, 1844, and is a son of John and Margaret (Hamm) Wiebe, who, as devout members of the Mennonite church, were religiously opposed to warfare, so that, at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, they severed the ties that bound them to their native land, made many sacrifices and, in 1872, removed to Russia, thus avoiding military service on the part of their sons. They passed the remainder of their lives in Russia — exiles from their home land on account of conscientious scruples. John Wiebe had accumulated a valuable farm estate of two hundred acres near the Prussian city of Dantzig, and he was well advanced in years when he left this fine home to exile himself in Russia. Of his eight children only three are now living and the eldest of the number, John, still resides in Russia,

the youngest of the three, Herman, being a prosperous farmer of Gage county.

In his native land Gerhard Wiebe received good educational advantages in his youth and he there gained valuable experience in the mercantile business, as clerk in a store in the city of Berlin. He was preparing to engage in business for himself at the time when his venerable parents manifested their earnest desire to immigrate to Russia. He promptly subordinated his personal plans and ambition and went, in 1869, to Russia, to prepare a home for his parents. At Samara he found employment as clerk in a mercantile establishment, and at the beginning he received as compensation only his room and board. Within six weeks he had sufficiently mastered the Russian language to be able to do effective service as a salesman, and finally he learned to speak the language with fluency. Thus fortified, he engaged in business on a modest scale, in the colony where his parents resided, and he continued his residence in Russia for more than a score of years and eventually built up a prosperous mercantile business, though he was compelled to bring in his merchandise by wagons from the nearest city, ninety miles distant.

In 1894 Mr. Wiebe came to America and in that year he established his permanent residence at Beatrice, where he engaged in the general merchandise business and soon familiarized himself with the English language. He finally confined his mercantile enterprise to the handling of dry goods and the various supplemental lines customarily found in similar establishments. Fair and honorable dealing and efficient service enabled him to develop a substantial and properous business, and he still retains his interest in the well equipped store, which is now under the active management of his sons. He is the owner of good business buildings in Beatrice and also of his pleasant home. He is a liberal and public-spirited citizen, loyal in all things to the land of his adoption and is a substantial citizen who commands unqualified popular esteem. He is independent in politics and he holds membership in the Mennonite church.

In 1873 Mr. Wiebe married Miss Margaret Claassen, who was born in Germany and whose parents thence removed to Russia, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Wiebe died at the old home in Russia, in 1890, and there also died four of her ten children, all of the other children being now residents of Gage county: G. C. is engaged in the clothing business at Beatrice; William is associated with the dry-goods business here established by his father; Magdalene is a deaconess of the Mennonite Home and Hospital in Beatrice; Agatha is the wife of H. A. Penner, who is connected with the Peters Trust & Loan Company, at Omaha; Elizabeth presides over her father's home; and Justina is the wife of P. Daniel Schultz, teacher of science in the Beatrice high school. It will thus be noted that the family is one of prominence and influence in the business and social life of the Gage county metropolis.

JAMES PACKER. — The seafaring life is vital and adventurous and it has lured the youth of all ages, because of its hazards and the opportunities it affords to see the world. James Packer, a retired farmer living in Elm township, spent the early years of his life as a sailor, and as such he sailed into nearly every port of the world. He went to the South Sea Islands, where the savages brought their spices to load on the ship; he went to the northern countries, where the furs were loaded on his ship; he traded with white men, black men, and yellow men — men of every clime and condition. He was only eight years old when he made his first voyage, on his father's ship, and from that time onward he spent the greater part of his time in close association with his father's maritime activities. In the cold winter months they kept to the southern waters, away from the treacherous ice-floes. In the summer months they went to the northern waters and carried the freight they were anxious to send to other shores. Mr. Packer has an interesting collection of sea shells and deep-sea fauna which he had collected on these voyages, and he loves to recount his adventures.

MR. AND MRS. JAMES PACKER

Mr. Packer was born on famed old Broadway, New York city, the date of his nativity having been May 10, 1841. He is the eldest son of James and Mary (Appleman) Packer. James Packer was born in New York, in 1812, and died July 7, 1892, in a sailors' home at Key West, Florida. James Packer, Sr., spent the greater part of his life on the sea, sailing all over the world. The latter years of his life were spent in the hotel business in New York, where he and a brother conducted a hotel. In 1858 he purchased land in Clayton county, Iowa, where he farmed for a few years. His wife, Mary Ann (Appleman) Packer, was born in 1813, in Connecticut and was laid to rest in Decatur, Iowa, in 1898. Her parents were of Swedish birth, and upon coming to America they settled in Connecticut. James Packer, of this review, was the firstborn in a family of six children.

In the public schools of Mystic, Connecticut, Mr. Packer received his early education. He had as a classmate, the well known Judge Holmes, of Lincoln, Nebraska. During the Civil war Mr. Packer was exempted from actual service, as he was engaged in farming and the farmers were needed to feed the fighting men. His brother Gustavus responded and was accepted, serving his country on the firing line.

The marriage of James Packer and Julia F. Goodrich was solemnized October 9, 1864. Mrs. Packer was born in Chautauqua county, New York, in 1844, and she passed to the life eternal on the 9th day of July, 1897. Her ancestry was of the sturdy New England type characteristic of that historic section, where it is said that they do not raise crops but raise men. Her paternal grandfather was a physician and fought in the war of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Packer became the parents of nine children, concerning whom brief record is here given: Charles J. resides in Riverside township; Hiram A. lives at Culbertson, Hitchcock county, Nebraska; James G. resides at Diller, Jefferson county; William H. and Julius F. reside at Woodriver, Hall county; Caroline C. is the wife of A. Frisbie, of Elm township, Gage county; Eda F. died in 1880; Walter C. was born May 26, 1882, and died March 18, 1884; Margaret Ella is the wife of John Greider, living in Glenwood township.

Mr. Packer has lived on his present farm in Elm township since 1881, when he came from Iowa to Nebraska. His land was wild and uncultivated, and he has won it to a high state of productivity, planting an orchard and other shade trees to beautify the former barren prairie. In 1903 Mr. Packer married Nannie Shaff, who was born February 22, 1867, in Marion county, Iowa, and who was a child at the time of the death of her parents. Mrs. Packer came to Gage county in 1901. One child has been born of this marriage, and their son, Dewey E., was named in honor of the late Admiral Dewey, of Spanish-American war fame, who was a personal friend of Mr. Packer. This son is a great comfort to his parents in their pleasant home. Mr. Packer is a Republican in politics, and he has served as road overseer and as a member of the school board. Mrs. Packer holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN M. SHALLA was born in Washington county, Iowa, December 25, 1879, a son of Frank Shalla, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. John M. Shalla was a child of eighteen months at the time of the family removal of Gage county. He can remember the building of his parents' first home in Gage county, where the family were among the first to settle on the Otoe Indian reservation. He was reared on the farm, attended the public schools and for the past fourteen years he has been engaged in farming for himself. He was assisted by his father in purchasing a farm in Glenwood township, but later he sold this property to his brother William, and for the past six years he has owned and operated the present place, a well improved tract of two hundred and forty acres, in Paddock township.

He married Miss Mary Sikyta, who is a native of Johnson county, Nebraska, and a daughter of Frank and Christian Sikyta, early settlers of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Shalla have two children,—Harold and Stanley.

Mr. Shalla is a Democrat and is serving as clerk of Paddock township. While living in Glenwood township he was clerk of that township for several years.

JOHN J. GRONEWOLD has gained through his insistent energy and ability a secure vantage-ground as one of the substantial exponents of farm enterprise in Hanover township, where he is the owner of a well improved farm property of two hundred acres, his attractive homestead being situated in Section 31. Mr. Gronewold was born in East Friesland, Germany, on the 9th of October, 1873, a son of John and Anna (Heinrichs) Gronewold, the father having been born in 1847 and his death having occurred in 1891, his entire life having been passed in his native land, where his widow still resides, she having been born in 1844. Of their six children four are living: Soaka remains in Germany; John J., of this review, is the next younger; William is engaged in farming in Gage county; and Galscha remains at the old home in Germany. The other two children, Dick and Weaka, sacrificed their lives in the great European war of the present day. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church and the father gave his entire active career to farm industry, in which his success was unequivocal, his old homestead farm in East Friesland comprising seventy acres.

John J. Gronewold gained his youthful education in the excellent schools of his native province and was but sixteen years old when, in 1889, he came to the United States and established his residence in Gage county. Here for ten years thereafter he was employed as a farm hand, and though he never received large wages he carefully saved his earnings, as he was ambitious to establish himself independently as a farmer. After his marriage he continued in the employ of others until 1900, when his financial resources had become such as to enable him to make partial payment on a farm of eighty acres, in Hanover township. With characteristic energy he gave himself to the improving and general operations of the farm, which he eventually sold advantageously, and he has not only become an independent and successful agriculturist and stock-grower of the county but has also accumulated a fine landed estate of two hundred acres. He keeps the farm in the best of condition throughout, has erected good buildings to supplement those that were already on the property, and he orders with much circumspection and attendant success all branches of his farm enterprise, which includes diversified agriculture and the raising of cattle, swine and chickens of the best type. He gives special attention also to the raising of beans and has made this enterprise notable successful. A hard worker and a man of good judgment, he has achieved prosperity through his own endeavors and is one of the highly esteemed citizens of Hanover township. In politics he is independent of strict partisan lines, he has served as road overseer and as a member of the school board, and he and his wife are active communicants of the German Lutheran church.

In 1897 Mr. Gronewold wedded Miss Anna Gerdes, who was born in Germany, where her parents, John and Freda Gerdes, passed their entire lives. Mrs. Gronewold was fourteen years of age when she came to the United States in company with an uncle and her sister Tena. Mr. and Mrs. Gronewold have four children, all of whom remain at the parental home: Anna, Jennie, John, and Freda.

JAMES B. ZUVER, manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Adams, Gage county, is a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Hooker township, on March 11, 1871. His father, George W. Zuver, was born at Wooster, Ohio, December 6, 1846. When ten years of age George W. Zuver accompanied his parents, Solomon and Julia Zuver, to Iowa, and the home was established at Mason City, where Solomon Zuver conducted a hotel. George W. Zuver crossed the plains in 1864 and successfully engaged in mining in Idaho Territory. Returning to Iowa, Mr. Zuver was in business with his father until 1867, when he came to Nebraska and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, on Section 15, Hooker township, Gage county. He was

a successful farmer and one of the early settlers of Gage county, where he experienced the grasshopper scourge and other pioneer conditions. Mr. Zuver invested in land in Kansas and Missouri and for a time lived in each of these states. Returning to Gage county, he farmed until 1894, when he sold out and went to Louisiana. Ten months later he settled in Hall county, Nebraska. In 1909 Mr. Zuver moved to St. Paul, Nebraska, and after remaining there a short time he located at Geneva, Nebraska, where he now makes his home. In the year 1915 he lived at Beatrice.

The maiden name of the mother of James B. Zuver was Martha J. Hillman. She was born in Pennsylvania, January 5, 1850, a daughter of John and Eliza Jane Hillman, who came to Nebraska Territory in 1855 and established their home in Gage county. Here Mrs. Zuver was reared and educated under the condition of the early pioneer era. On June 5, 1870, in Hooker township, was solemnized her marriage to George W. Zuver and they now maintain their home at Geneva, Fillmore county, this state.

James B. Zuver is the oldest in a family of five children: Julia Bryson lives at Grand Island, Nebraska; Mrs. L. Dye resides at LeMars, Missouri, and Sarah and Clarence are with their parents at Geneva, Nebraska.

The subject of this record was reared on a farm in Gage county. He attended district school and supplemented this with a course in the Beatrice Business College, and the Lincoln Normal School. He graduated in the last named institution and taught school and farmed in Gage county until 1908, when he helped to organize the Farmers' Elevator Company at Adams, becoming president of that institution, and later being made manager, which position he now holds.

On October 18, 1894, Mr. Zuver was united in marriage to Miss Laura E. Jewell, a native of monmouth, Illinois, and a daughter of William and Emma (Wonderly) Jewell, who settled in Gage county, Nebraska, in 1877. The mother now makes her home at Adams. Mr. and Mrs. Zuver became the parents of nine children: Floyd S. is in the national army and is now located at Camp Cody, New Mexico, in the spring of 1918; Fern is deceased; Violet, Daisy, George, Orvil, and Myrtle remain at the parental home; and Pansy is deceased.

Mr. Zuver takes an active interest in the civic affairs of Adams, is chairman of the town council, and a member of the school board, and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America.

THOMAS R. CALLAN is a well known hardware and implement dealer of Odell, Nebraska. Perhaps no other man coming to Odell in the early days has kept in such close personal touch with the farmers and the farming development of his community as has Thomas R. Callan. He came to Odell in the early '80s, when farming implements were of a different character and of less help to the farmer than the modern labor-saving machinery of to-day. The life story of a self-made man is always interesting, being ever an inspiration to the younger generation, who are by his example prompted to greater efforts and sacrifice to make good in their chosen work. It is fitting we should have the life story of this pioneer merchant, who has conducted a thriving and ever expanding hardware and implement business at Odell for the past thirty-five years.

Mr. Callan was born August 21, 1856, in Garrett county, Maryland, and is a son of John and Ellen (Hoffman) Callan. John Callan was born in Ireland, received the education which his time and country afforded, and upon coming to the United States he settled in Maryland. He was employed as a collector and also became the editor of a local newspaper. When only thirty-two years of age he was taken away from his wife and family, his death having occurred in 1860. The maiden name of his wife was Ellen Hoffman. Five children came to bless their union. Ellen (Hoffman) Callan was born in 1838, in Maryland; after her husband's death she, with her family of small children, removed to Illinois, where in 1867, she became the wife of Samuel Stan-

ton. He was a farmer and was born in Maryland. Four children were born to this union. Mrs. Ellen Stanton lived to a good old age, going to her reward in 1898. She was a faithful member of the Methodist church. Two sons, David Callan, living at Chicago, Illinois, and Thomas R., with whom this sketch directly deals, are the only children of the first marriage who survive her.

Thomas Callan was eleven years old, when he went with his mother to Illinois and located on his step-father's farm. He attended the rural schools of his district. In 1878 he entered the Northwestern College at Fulton, Illinois, and afterward he taught school for one term. He then worked as a farm hand for William Uhl, a hardware merchant. Mr. Uhl soon realized the aptitude of his young farm employe and soon had him back of his counter, selling hardware. This incident happened in 1880, in Dixon, Illinois, and was the turning point in Mr. Callan's life. He grasped opportunity to so great an extent that in 1883 he came to Odell, Nebraska, and opened a hardware business for himself. For virtually thirty-five years he has remained in the present location and successfully conducted his business.

Mr. Callan was married January 1, 1884, to Lillian Stitzel. Two sons and two daughters have come to bless this happy marriage. They have given their two sons, in the present national crisis, to aid in "making the world safe for democracy." The first born is John S., who was postmaster at Odell when he entered the nation's military service. He was located at Jackson, Florida, in the quartermaster's department of the United States Army, until he went with his command to France. Ruth is the wife of Vern Benson, of Sioux City, Iowa, her husband being a railroad mail clerk. Madge is a teacher at Tobias, Nebraska. Richard was at the Jackson (Florida) cantonment until he went with his regiment to France. These children all name Odell as their birthplace and have all received the advantages of the public schools of their native place. The mother of this interesting family, Lillian (Stitzel) Callan, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1858, and is a daughter of John and Rose Stitzel, both deceased.

In Paddock township Thomas Callan has a well improved farm of eighty acres, which he purchased in 1901. He has made various improvements on his farm setting out trees, etc.

In 1917 Mr. Callan erected at Odell a thoroughly modern automobile garage, in which he is able to meet the needs of his patrons. This electric-lighted, steam-heated building is fifty by one hundred feet in dimensions, and in the same are all the conveniences which modern science can give for the efficiency of motor-car service. Mr. Callan is the local agent for the well known Ford automobile. He has taken a more or less active interest in Democratic politics, and has served in municipal offices at Odell, as well as a member of the school board. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and his wife is an active member of the Christian church.

MARTIN L. KORS first came to the state of Nebraska in 1883, and for more than twenty years he has been one of the leading merchants and representative citizens of the Gage county metropolis. He has built up a large and prosperous grocery business, with an establishment of modern equipment and facilities, and the substantial and important business is now conducted under the firm title of M. L. Kors & Son.

Mr. Kors was born in Cass county, Illinois, November 11, 1848, and is a son of Henry F. and Margaret (Filiner) Kors, both natives of Germany. Henry F. Kors was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, December 31, 1804, his death having occurred in 1869. In 1836 he came to America and established his home in Illinois, and he invested in property in the now prosperous and vital little city of Beardstown, where his marriage was solemnized. He was a skilled workman at the trade of plasterer and followed the same in Illinois until his death. His first wife became the mother of four children, all of whom are now deceased, and of the seven children of his second marriage only two are now living, Martin L., of this review, and George E., a

prosperous agriculturist and stock-grower near Humboldt, Richardson county, Nebraska.

Henry F. Kors aligned himself as a loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party, was a man of strong convictions and sterling character, and both he and his wife were earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

Martin L. Kors acquired his early education in the graded schools of Illinois, and as a youth he there served a thorough apprenticeship to the trade of tinsmith. As a skilled artisan he continued to follow his trade until 1877, and 1883 engaged in the tinner's business at Beatrice, in which city he had established his home that year. He has shown marked discrimination and progressiveness as a merchant. Efficiency of service and personal popularity having been the principal factors in insuring his success. His first store in Beatrice was established on the west side of the city, but he soon removed to the central retail district and since February 10, 1898, he has conducted his business at the present location, on Thirteenth and Court streets. In 1909 he admitted to partnership his son, Walter H., and since that time the enterprise has been conducted under the firm name of M. L. Kors & Son.

November 28, 1883, recorded the marriage of Mr. Kors to Miss Sophia M. Hackman, who was born and reared in Cass county, Illinois, a daughter of John F. Hackman, who was a native of Germany and became an early settler and prosperous farmer in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kors have two children: Ethel M., who was graduated in the Beatrice high school in 1904, remains at the parental home and is a popular factor in the representative social activities of her home city, and Walter H., who is associated with his father in business, is more specifically mentioned in the following paragraph:

Walter H. Kors, junior member of the firm of M. L. Kors & Son, was born at Beatrice, February 14, 1887, and here received his early education in the public schools. As a youth he began to assist in the work of his father's store, in which he continued his activities as an efficient and popular salesman until he was admitted to partnership in the business, in 1909, since which time he has continued as his father's valued coadjutor in the management of the large and prosperous business. He is one of the progressive and public-spirited business men of the younger generation in Beatrice, has been a member of the city's volunteer fire department for fully fifteen years, is a Republican in politics, is affiliated with the Tribe of Ben Hur and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1911 Mr. Kors wedded Miss Mamie Wolf, who was born in Blakely township, this county, where her parents, Marion F. and Lydia V. (Graves) Wolf, settled in the pioneer days. Mr. and Mrs. Kors have two children — Robert Walter, born December 12, 1912, and Lois Ethel, born November 7, 1913.

Martin L. Kors has not confined his sentiment and action to mere personal advancement but has at all times stood sponsor for civic loyalty and progressiveness. He has served three terms as a member of the county board of supervisors and for a long period of years as a valued member of the Beatrice board of education, of which he was president three terms. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1905 Mr. Kors erected his beautiful and modern residence, on East Court street, and the same is a home known for its gracious hospitality and good cheer. The son, Walter H., likewise erected an attractive home, in 1911, and upon his marriage he and his wife there established their residence.

FRANK R. SHELLEY, who is now president and general manager of the Northwestern Business College, in the city of Beatrice, and whose vigorous and well ordered policies are greatly enhancing the usefulness of this excedent institution, is a scion, in the third generation, of one of the honored pioneer families of Gage county, where the paternal grandfather settled about five years prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood. On other pages adequate review of the family history is

given in the sketch dedicated to the late James W. Shelley, father of the subject of this article, and thus a repetition of the data is not here demanded.

Frank R. Shelley was born in Rockford township, this county, March 7, 1891, and is a son of James W. and Mary (Bailey) Shelley. His preliminary education was acquired in the district schools and thereafter, depending largely on himself to provide the necessary incidental expenses, he completed a course in the Beatrice high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1912. Ambitious and indefatigable as a student, Mr. Shelley later applied himself with characteristic diligence to regular courses of study in a leading correspondence school and he has carried his studies forward to the point where he is entitled to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In this connection he studied both law and salesmanship, besides taking specific efficiency courses that have tended to mature his powers along constructive and executive lines. Mr. Shelley devoted one year to teaching district school and then became clerk in a grocery store. Finally he was made manager of a mercantile establishment at Tecumseh, Johnson county, and after his retirement from this position he became a salesman of memberships in the Northwestern Business College. After eighteen months of successful work in this capacity he purchased, in February, 1916, an interest in this excellent institution, which is incorporated under the laws of Nebraska and of which he has been president and general manager since April 1, 1917. The school had fallen somewhat below standard in its work and management when he assumed the management of its affairs and he has successfully applied his energies in bringing maximum efficiency into all departments of the school work, in making the institution a valuable adjunct to practical and effective educational work in this section of the state and in so exploiting the school as to gain to it a substantial and appreciative supporting patronage. In the college is retained a corps of well qualified instructors, the material facilities and general accessories are of the best standard, and Mr. Shelley has formulated and carried forward an advertising campaign that is resulting in greatly increasing the enrollment of students — of which department of the executive service he has had personal charge. An enthusiast in his work and in making his school a medium for practical education, the development of efficiency and the upbuilding of character, he has been instrumental in making the Northwestern Business College a prosperous and worthy institution. He is president also of Fairbury Business College, at Fairbury, Nebraska. A young man of vital energy and ambition, he recognizes no such word as failure, and in his present field of endeavor he has found ample scope for achievement of high value. In politics he is aligned in the ranks of the Republican party, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Shelley is now (spring of 1918) in the government employ at Waco, Texas, where he is serving as a clerk in the aviation corps.

January 31, 1917, recorded the marriage of Mr. Shelley to Miss Eva L. Knox, daughter of C. D. Knox, of this county, and they are popular figures in the representative social life of the Gage county metropolis.

PETER E. BENSON. — In Greek mythology the Fates are three goddesses who are supposed to influence the destinies of men. One goddess draws out the threads of life, the second weaves the dark and light threads, and the third takes her shears and clips off the ends. There would seem to be a grain of truth in this superstitution as we look at the warp and woof in the lives of men. It looks as though fate rather than self had made us the individuals we are. But, nevertheless, we are confronted by the fact that we are the creatures of chance, in that other individual lives have influenced our own. Their actions have had much to do with ours and Mr. Peter F. Benson is confronted with the fact that his living in this land of opportunity is an attendant result of his brother, Fred Benson, having immigrated to this country some years previously. To speak in a chronological manner, Peter E. Benson was born in Denmark, April 10, 1848,

and is the son of Neils and Mary Benson. Neils Benson was born January 21, 1804, and taught school in his native land; his death occurred in March, 1888. His wife was born February 24, 1819, and died in 1904. They were the parents of twelve children, four of whom make their home in their native land, the others are deceased with the exception of Peter E. Benson, of this sketch.

In 1868 Fred Benson, the brother of Peter, left his native land and came to the United States. He worked as a laborer for some time and in 1878 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased land. Here he remained until his death, in 1892. As stated above, the coming of Mr. Benson's brother to the United States had much to do with his decision to come also. When he came, in 1872, he landed in New Jersey, where he was employed in a brickyard; from 1874 to 1875 he worked in the South Manchester silk mills, in Connecticut, and he then went to Ohio, where he worked as a farm hand.

September 25, 1875, in Cleveland, Ohio, Peter Benson married Anna Peterson. This marriage was the culmination of a romance started while Mr. Benson was working in New Jersey. His wife is a native of Denmark, born November 3, 1852, and upon coming to this country she settled in New Jersey, her mother joining her after a few years.

After the marriage of these young people they moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where Mr. Benson was employed in a saw mill. After ten years of residence there he came to Gage county and rented the present farm from his brother Fred. After his brother's death, the property became his own and he has continued to do a general farming business. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Benson, five of whom are living: Anna M., is a school teacher at Columbus, Nebraska; she was educated in the high school of Odell and the Peru Normal. Charles E., sociological examiner in the service of United States, is located at Camp Greenleaf, Georgia. He was at one time professor of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, schools and of the high school of Kearney, Nebraska. His education was received at the Nebraska State University and the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru. He is married to Miss Lulu Linder, of Upland, Nebraska. The next child is Rosa C., wife of John E. Hayworth, living at Omaha, Nebraska. Amelia is the wife of Fisher Musser, living at Fairbury, Nebraska. Fred C., a teacher, remains at the parental home. Mr. Benson has given his children the best of educational advantages and they are taking their places in the world's work in a highly satisfactory manner.

Mr. Benson in politics is an independent Republican. He has never sought any political honors, being content to devote his time to his home and family.

ALDEN C. BRADLEY. — In the city of Beatrice, the attractive metropolis and judicial center of Gage county, a portion of which municipality occupies land once owned by his father, Mr. Bradley is giving efficient service as a mail carrier, and he is one of the well known and distinctly popular citizens of the county that has represented his home since he was a lad of twelve years.

Mr. Bradley was born in LaPorte county, Indiana, on the 6th of January, 1860, and is a son of Taylor and Emily C. Bradley, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Indiana, where her parents settled in the pioneer period of the history of the fine old Hoosier commonwealth. In Indiana, Taylor Bradley continued to be associated with agricultural industry until 1864, when he came with his family to the west and became one of the early pioneer settlers of Nebraska Territory. He established his home in the village of Fort Calhoun, Washington county, where he continued his activities as a miller until 1873. He then removed to Gage county, where he obtained a tract of land and instituted the reclamation and development of a farm. He was successful in his activities during the passing years and a portion of the land once owned by him is now included within the corporate limits of the city of Beatrice, as previously stated in this context. Both he and his wife continued their residence in Gage county until their death, and their names merit place on the

enduring roster of the honored pioneers of the county.

Alden C. Bradley was but four years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska Territory, and thus he early gained experience in connection with the conditions and influences of the pioneer days. His youthful education was acquired in the schools of Washington and Gage counties, and he continued his allegiance to the great fundamental industry of agriculture until 1895, when he assumed a clerical position in the postoffice at Beatrice. His service in connection with the local postoffice administration has continued during the long intervening period of nearly a quarter of a century and since 1895 he has been one of the most popular members of the force of city mail carriers, his circle of friends in Gage county being coincident with that of his acquaintances.

Mr. Bradley gives his political allegiance to the Republican party, he and his wife hold membership in the Congregational church, and he maintains active affiliation with the Royal Highlanders, the Improved Order of Red Men and the Fraternal Aid Union. Mr. Bradley has seen Beatrice develop from a mere frontier village into a progressive and attractive city with metropolitan facilities and beautiful homes. He and his wife have no children but their pleasant home is known for its gracious hospitality, which is generously extended to friends both old and young.

In the year 1887 Mr. Bradley wedded Miss Alice Herron, who was born in Iowa, and who was a girl when she came with her parents to Gage county, where her marriage was solemnized and where she is popular in the social circles of her home city.

CHARLES O. GUDTNER — The vigorous and productive industry that is the normal forerunner of worthy success has been significantly exemplified in the career of this sterling citizen of Beatrice, where he conducts the largest and most effectively equipped blacksmith and repair shop in the city and where he has brought its efficiency of service up to such a high standard that he receives a most substantial and representative supporting patronage, his establishment having the best of facilities for the handling of general repair work on wagons, carriages, and automobiles, as well as those requisite to the other phases of expert blacksmith work.

Mr. Gudtner was born at Elmwood, Peoria county, Illinois, on the 6th of July, 1863, and is a son of David and Sarah (Robey) Gudtner, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter at Hagerstown, Wayne county, Indiana, in which state their marriage was solemnized. David Gudtner, a skilled blacksmith and wagonmaker by trade, came with his family to Nebraska in 1870 and became one of the pioneer exponents of his sturdy vocation at Beatrice, which was then a small village. On his arrival in the future metropolis of Gage county he made provision for the temporary domiciling of the family by establishing a camp on the present site of the Union Pacific Railroad station, and this continued to be the family abiding place until he could provide a house. For a time Mr. Gudtner was here employed at his trade in the shop of a man named Snow, and as soon as it became expedient he established a shop of his own. He developed a substantial business as a pioneer blacksmith and wagonmaker in this section of the state, his skill insuring at all times the best type of workmanship and his policies being such as to gain to him unqualified popular confidence and esteem. He was earnest and liberal as a citizen and his abiding human sympathy caused him to aid in charitable and benevolent movements, as well as to assist in an individual way those who were less fortunate in life. He was a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party, was long and actively affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and both he and his wife were zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a member of a family that was founded in America many generations ago and was a scion of sturdy Holland Dutch stock. He and his devoted wife continued their residence in Beatrice until their death, he having passed away about the year 1905 and she in 1908, their names meriting

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL S. PHEASANT

a place of honor on the roll of the sterling pioneers of Gage county, where they lived and labored to goodly ends. Of their nine children five are now living, namely: Mary, who is the widow of George Metzger and maintains her home at Beatrice; Jennie, who is the wife of Albert Sponsler, of San Francisco, California; Charles O., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Nellie, who is the wife of James McMahill, of San Fancisco, California; and George, who resides at Long Beach, that state.

Charles O. Gudtner was a boy of about seven years at the time of the family removal to Gage county, and he is indebted to the pioneer schools of Beatrice for his early educational training. Here as a youth he learned the blacksmith trade by serving a through apprenticeship in the shop conducted by George Metzger, at the corner of Sixth and Court streets. In 1887 he went to Sheridan county, Kansas, where he took up a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres, established a modest bachelor's home on the place and instituted its reclamation and improvement. He remained on his Kansas claim until he had perfected his title thereto, and later he sold the property in an advantageous way. In 1892 Mr. Gudtner returned to Beatrice and resumed the work of his trade. His capitalistic investment in opening his shop was only eighty-five dollars and though the city had at the time thirteen other blacksmith shops he had gained reputation for skill in his vocation and was so well and favorably known in the county that he soon developed a prosperous business. He now has the largest blacksmithing establishment in the city and in the same gives employment to a corps of seven efficient assistants — a condition that indicates the broad scope and relative importance of his well ordered industrial enterprise.

As a man of indefatigable industry and progressive ideas, Mr. Gudtner has achieved substantial success in business, the while he has exemplified the civic loyalty that denotes the ideal citizen, his political allegiance being given to the Republican party.

In 1890 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gudtner to Miss Nettie Smith, who was born and reared in Kansas, a representative of one of the pioneer families of the Sunflower state, and they have one son, Frederick, who is now actively associated with his father's business enterprise and who is well upholding the family prestige for skill in the work of the blacksmith trade.

SAMUEL S. PHEASANT, who is the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred acres in Gage county, as well as the old homestead farm upon which he was reared and on which he now resides, in Section 1, Jefferson township, Jefferson county, is a representative of one of the well known territorial pioneer families of southeastern Nebraska, and his association with Gage county is such as fully to justify his recognition in this history, his home farm being nine miles distant from Beatrice, from which city he receives service on rural mail route No. 1. Mr. Pheasant was born in Benton county, Iowa, September 15, 1859, and was about seven years old when, in 1866, his parents came to Nebraska territory and established their home on the farm which is his present place of residence. He is a son of Edwin and Isabel (Garton) Pheasant, the former of whom was born in New York city, January 10, 1820, and the latter of whom was born in Indiana, their marriage having been solemnized in the state of Illinois, in 1845. As a boy Edwin Pheasant found employment in the factory of his uncle, James Watson, who was engaged in manufacturing wooden pumps in the state of New York, and in 1835 he accompanied his uncle to Illinois, where he became associated with the latter in farm enterprise and where he was reared to manhood under the conditions marking the pioneer period of the history of that state. After his marriage he there engaged in farming in an independent way, but a few years later he removed with his family to Iowa and became one of the pioneers of Benton county. There he continued his active association with farm enterprise for fourteen years, and on the 14th of June, 1866, he and his family arrived at Beatrice, Nebraska Territory. In the following September the fam-

ily removed to the tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land which he had secured in Section 1, Jefferson township, Jefferson county, just over the line from Gage county. Later he added to this estate by the purchasing of eighty acres in Section 5, Lincoln township, Gage county, and with the passing years his well ordered industry was crowned with substantial success, involving the development of one of the valuable farm properties of this section of the state. Edwin Pheasant remained on his old homestead until his death, which occurred October 14, 1898, his wife having passed away in June, 1896, and both having been earnest members of the Primitive Church of Christ. They were charter members of the Christian church at Beatrice. Of their children the subject of this review is the youngest, and concerning the others the following brief data are available: Ellen, who became the wife of A. R. Francis, is deceased, as are also James and John; Mary is the wife of James McNeen, of La Junta, Colorado; Laura became the wife of J. G. Lawrence and was a resident of Beatrice, Nebraska, at the time of her death, which occurred October 27, 1917.

Samuel S. Pheasant was seven years old when he gained his initial experience in connection with pioneer farm enterprise on the homestead which is now his place of abode, and his early education was acquired in the pioneer schools of Jefferson county. He has had no inclination to sever his allegiance to the fundamental industries of agriculture and stock-growing in his mature years and through the medium thereof has achieved large and worthy success. The homestead on which he lives and which is modern in all of its improvements, comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and the remainder of his large landed estate, of about four hundred and sixty acres, is in Lincoln township, Gage county. Mr. Pheasant has exemplified the utmost progressiveness as a citizen and man of affairs and while he has had no desire for political preferment he gives staunch allegiance to the Republican party, both he and his wife being active members of the Primitive Church of Christ, as was also his first wife.

In January, 1884, Mr. Pheasant wedded Miss Eugenia Pittinger, daughter of Benjamin F. and Amanda (Holeman) Pittinger, who established their home in Gage county in 1874 and who here passed the residue of their lives. Mrs. Pheasant was summoned to the life eternal on the 30th of October, 1895, and is survived by three children: Guy L. is one of the progressive young farmers of Lincoln township, Gage county, and on the 19th of October, 1910, he wedded Miss Mary E. McClure, daughter of James L. and Lucy (McMichael) McClure, of Gage county, the one child of this union being Harold E.; Mary is the wife of Floyd L. Marco, of Beatrice; and Samuel E. remains at the paternal home.

June 18, 1897, recorded the marriage of Mr. Pheasant to Miss Rhoda Potts, daughter of Jonathan J. and Elizabeth Potts, who settled in Jefferson county, Nebraska, in 1866, Mr. Potts having previously served as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war. Of the second marriage of Mr. Pheasant no children have been born.

ALBERT KUHLMANN. — The melting pot of America has been receiving immigrants from every country in the world and is turning out a new nationality — the American He is endowed with the industry of the German, the stolidness of the Scotch, the wit of the Irishman, the idealism of the Italian, the orientalism of the Jap and the stubborness and frankness of the English. Such a combination will conquer the world through love and justice. Albert Kuhlmann is a native of Germany — the great empire that has poured so many of its sons into the great melting pot of America to form a new nation. His father and mother, Ernest and Sophia (Jordan) Kuhlmann were born in Germany and immigrated to this country in their early married life, when Albert Kuhlmann, who was born January 15, 1874, was just a tiny baby in arms. Ernest Kulhmann was born August 25, 1846, in Hanover, Germany, and upon his arrival in America he settled in Illinois. Later he moved

to Missouri, and in 1881 he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, where he purchased land in Barada township and where he is still continuing his farming operations. His wife, Mrs. Sophia Kuhlmann, was born May 19, 1849, and passed away December 26, 1893. They were the parents of the following children, all of whom were born in this country with the exception of the oldest, Albert, with whom this sketch deals; Emma, is the wife of Otto Scharinghausen of Jansen, Nebraska; and Henry resides in Richardson county, Nebraska. Three more children were born, but are deceased.

Albert Kuhlmann was educated in the rural schools of Barada township, Richardson county and after choosing his life vocation and working for himself, he continued his allegiance to farm industry. He married Sophia Hartman, February 3, 1898. Mrs. Kuhlmann was born in Barada township, Richardson county, December 20, 1877. Her parents, Leopold and Sophia (Gretchmann) Hartman were of German birth and lineage. They came to Nebraska and the father became a prosperous farmer in Richardson county. Both are now deceased. They were the parents of eleven children.

Six children have come to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kuhlmann — Edward, Minnie, Emma, Amanda, Alvin, and Elsie. All are at the parental home and are receiving proper education to fit them to take their share in the world's work and enrich the civic and social life by their good works.

The politics of Mr. Kuhlmann are of the independent Republican order. He has served on the school board of District No. 130, for eleven years.

In 1904 Mr. Kuhlmann, his wife and family came to Gage county, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, in Glenwood township. He has made improvements on the farm buildings for the better conducting of his farming work. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church.

PERCY J. SMETHERS, a representative retired farmer now residing in the city of Beatrice, established his home in Gage county forty years ago and through his energy and progressiveness he developed and improved one of the fine farm estates of Glenwood township. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, on the 30th of September, 1856, and is a son of Josiah and Mary (Hill) Smethers, who were born and reared in Pennsylvania and who came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1878, the father taking up a tract of land on the Otoe Indian reservation and having reclaimed the same into a productive farm. Upon his retirement from the farm he established his home in the village of Lanham, this county, and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, honored as sterling pioneer citizens of the county. Of their eight children five are living: Cinderella is the wife of B. C. Burkett, a retired farmer residing in the village of Odell, this county; Percy J., of this review, is the next younger; Harvey M. is prominently indentified with mercantile enterprise in the city of Beatrice; James is employed as a skilled iron worker in the same city; and Oscar Leon resides in Wyoming. The father was a Democrat in politics and he and his wife were consistent members of the English Lutheran church. Their marriage was solemnized in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and in 1853 they immigrated to Lee county, Illinois, where they continued to reside until their removal to Nebraska, as already noted.

Percy J. Smethers acquired his early education in the public schools of his native county and was twenty-two years of age when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, in 1878. On the Otoe Indian reservation, in what is now Glenwood township, Gage county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, and here he reclaimed and developed the fine farm on which he continued to reside for thirty-one years. His original house was little more than a hut, and was built at a cost of forty-five dollars, and this constituted the family home for seven years. He then erected a substantial and commodious farm house, and he also erected other good buildings on his homestead. In buying his original farm Mr. Smethers paid for the same at the rate of three and one-half

dollars an acre. In 1909 he sold the property for one hundred dollars an acre. As a farmer he gave his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of good live stock, besides developing a prosperous dairying business. Upon selling his old homestead he purchased forty acres of land lying adjacent to the city of Beatrice, and in the spring of 1917 he sold this property for two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. He still owns a well improved farm of eighty acres in Glenwood township.

In 1877 Mr. Smethers wedded Miss Mary Uhl, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, June 17, 1857, a daughter of the late Hiram and Margaret (Wilhelm) Uhl, the latter of whom died in 1858, and two of her four children are still living. Mr. Uhl ultimately contracted a second marriage, when Nancy Hughes became his wife, and of this union were born four children. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Smethers the following brief record is given: Nettie is the wife of W. A. Seitz and they reside in the state of Montana; Elroy resides in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska; Maevi became the wife of Horace Loeber, who passed away November 26, 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Smethers are earnest and zealous members of the Christian church and he is a valued member of the church choir. In politics he gives his support to the cause of the Democratic party and while residing on his farm he served for several years as township clerk.

GEORGE T. STEPHENSON, who is now living practically retired in the thriving little city of Wymore, has been an influential and valued citizen whose varied activities along civic and business lines have been so wisely and honorably directed as to make them prolific in the furtherance of the general wellbeing of the community. His spirit of personal stewardship has been exemplified in his civic loyalty, as well as in his large and worthy achievement as a man of broad and varied interests, and none is more essentially entitled to recognition in this history of Gage county.

George F. Stephenson was born in Floyd county, Iowa, on the 22d of June, 1862, and is a son of Thomas and Mary A. (McCune) Stephenson, both natives of Ireland. Thomas Stephenson, who was born in the year 1828, was reared and educated in his native land, and the year 1840 recorded him as a resident of the state of New York. There was solemnized his marriage to Miss Mary A. McCune, who had come from the fair old Emerald Isle to the United States in company with her parents, the year of her nativity having been 1827. Prior to the Civil war Thomas Stephenson and his wife numbered themselves among the pioneers of Iowa, where he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. When the Civil war was precipitated on the nation he showed his intrinsic loyalty to the land to which he had come as a youth, for he tendered his services in defense of the Union by enlisting in the Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. With this command he served faithfully and gallantly during his term of enlistment, and it may be specially noted that he was with General Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and in the subsequent and memorable march to the sea. After the close of the war he continued his farming operations in Iowa until 1866, when he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, and again girded himself for pioneer responsibilities and service. In 1878 he came to Gage county and here he purchased from the government two hundred acres of wild and untrammeled prairie land, and to this embryonic farm, in Sicily township, he brought his family by means of a team and "prairie schooner." He developed a finely productive farm property, and in the meanwhile he and his wife endured their full share of the privations and vicissitudes that so distinctly marked the pioneer era in Gage county history. They lived upright and righteous lives, were true to all the responsibilities that devolved upon them and gave to their children the goodly heritage of noble thoughts and noble deeds, though they had naught of the spirit of self-glorification or any desire to divert themselves from the even tenor of their way. They were sterling pioneer citizens who commanded unequivocal esteem, and Mr. Stephenson was sixty-six

years of age at the time of his death in 1894.

His widow has attained to the age of ninety-one years and is a resident of Lincoln, this state. Thomas Stephenson was aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party, was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his wife is a member of the Baptist church. Of their eight children six are now living: William, a retired farmer, resides at DuBois, Pawnee county; George T., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Riley is engaged in ranching in Montana; Alice is the widow of Albert Clayton and resides in the capital city of Nebraska; Emma is the wife of John W. Cutshall, a farmer of Pawnee county, this state; and Martha is the wife of John K. Campbell, who is, in 1918, principal of the public schools of Wymore, Gage county.

George T. Stephenson passed the period of his childhood and early youth on his father's farm, and in the meanwhile he profited duly by the advantages of the district schools. He was a lad of four years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, and he continued his studies in the schools of Gage county, besides which he took a course in the well ordered business college at Lawrence, Kansas. He proved and tested his scholastic acquirements by devoting his attention to teaching for several years, and in 1891 he established his residence at Wymore, where he engaged in the hardware and agricultural-implement business. He developed a substantial and prosperous enterprise in this important line of trade, and continued the business for a period of ten years. Thereafter he was for several years engaged extensively in the real-estate business, in which connection he developed a large and prosperous enterprise in the handling of both farm and village properties.

The progressiveness and loyalty of Mr. Stephenson have been demonstrated also in other alliances of important order. He was the organizer of the Wymore Building & Loan Association, of which he became secretary, and with this vital corporation he continued his connection until 1917, when he resigned his position as secretary. He is vice-president of the First National Bank of Wymore and is the owner of valuable farm property in Gage county.

The political predilections of Mr. Stephenson are indicated in the unswerving allegiance which he has given to the Democratic party, and he has given yeoman service in behalf of its cause. He served for a number of years as tax collector of Wymore township and also gave effiecient service in the office of city treasurer of Wymore. He is affiliated with the local lodge of the Masonic fraternity and has passed the various official chairs in the same, as has he also in the Wymore camp of the Modern Woodmen of America.

In March, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Stephenson to Miss Nellie Beer, and they have two children: Bernice is the wife of Myrle C. Evans, efficiency expert in the employ of a Chicago electric-light corporation; and Doane, who was in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, at Wymore, is now at Fort Logan, in the service of the United States. Mrs. Stephenson was born in Illinois and is a daughter of William and Adeline Beer, who were born in Pennsylvania and who came from Illinois to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1880, the remainder of their lives having been passed in this county.

ISAAC W. BURCH has continuously maintained his home in Beatrice since 1877 and for more than a quarter of a century he has been a member of the force of city mail carriers, a veteran in this branch of service and a citizen whose circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

Mr. Burch was born in Cambridge, Washington county, New York, December 11, 1848, and is a son of Lorenzo and Hannah M. (Durfee) Burch, both of whom passed their entire lives in that county of the old Empire state, where the respective families were founded in an early day. Mr. Burch was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and acquired his youthful education in the common schools of his native county. Upon attaining to his legal majority he engaged

in working on a farm by the month, and he was twenty-four years of age when, in 1873, he made his first visit to Gage county, Nebraska. Two months later he returned to New York state, but in 1877 he came again to Gage county and established his home at Beatrice, his memory thus having an indelible impression of the progressive movements that have resulted in the development of the frontier village into one of the attractive and prosperous cities of the state. On the 1st of July, 1891, Mr. Burch entered the employ of the government as a city mail carrier in Beatrice, and of this position he has since continued the efficient and popular incumbent, few citizens of the county being better known or held in higher esteem. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he takes a lively interest in all things touching the welfare and advancement of his home city. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary B. Hill, likewise was born and reared in Cambridge, Washington county, New York, and she has gained a wide circle of friends within the long period of her residence in Beatrice. They have no children.

FRANK MASEK, a retired farmer living in Odell, Nebraska, is the owner of two hundred and fifty-two acres of land, in Paddock and Glenwood townships. Mr. Masek is of the true pioneer type,— a type exemplifying both brains and brawn. It needs a character which can stand the hard knocks of privation and loneliness, and which can, with determined will and unswerving purpose, persist when others would fail. Such a personality is Frank Masek, a native born Bohemian. He was born in the village of Horcic, Pilsen, Bohemia, March 20, 1847. His parents, Joseph and Mary (Machasek) Masek, were born in Bohemia and lived all their lives in that Slav country,— one of little opportunity and few great achievements. These good people were the parents of twelve children and Joseph Masek plied his trade of carpenter all of his life. But of more venturesome blood were his two sons Frank and William, who longed for new fields of service and opportunity. June 24, 1867, the day after Frank Masek's marriage to Josephine Smola, this young Bohemian couple sailed for the United States, a land that to them was one with unknown tongue, unknown customs and unknown opportunities, but they faltered not, being ready to meet their destiny as it came. When only six days from land, the ship caught fire. So great was the fire that men and women were kneeling all over the deck, praying that God would save them. Life belts were put on, in expectation that any minute the passengers would have to take to the open sea, but the fire was finally extinguished and they were spared to reach their destinations. Mr. and Mrs. Masek, with the brother, William Masek, who came two years later, located at St. Louis, Missouri. For twelve years the family home was maintained in that city and Mr. Masek worked in the stone quarries.

In 1879 Mr. Masek, with his wife and three children, came to Nebraska to start life afresh on the soil. He had saved six hundred dollars while in St. Louis and expected to buy land. The first year he rented, but the next year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land from his brother William, who had purchased this land but had not tried to improve it. All that Frank Masek possessed was a pair of horses and a wagon; he had no tools to work with, no spade nor hoe, only his strong hands and a determination to make good. This land, which to-day is so well cultivated and dotted with farm homes, barns and silos and stocked with herds of cattle and hogs, was then one vast expanse of prairie. As far as the eye could reach no human habitation could be seen. There was no shelter for the people who had brought their all to "pioneer" in Gage county. Very soon they had their rude sod hut and a shelter for their horses, and were tilling the soil.

As the country was being settled, the children needed schools in which to receive the rudiments of education. The county seemed unable or too listless to give financial aid to this district for a school. Then Frank Masek,

with his own hand and the help of neighbors, built the first sod hut used for a school. It was in Section 7, Paddock township.

The marriage of Frank Masek and Josephine Smola occurred in Bohemia, June 23, 1867. Mrs. Masek shared with her husband all of his labors of the early days and lived to see the fruit of all of their striving. They became the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living. The mother passed away in 1903. Brief record concerning the children is here given: William, born in St. Louis, Mo., in 1870, married Miss Rosa Murphy, and is now deceased; Mary is the wife of Frank Hajek, living in section 5, Paddock township; Anna is the wife of Joseph Hajek, of Glenwood township; Joseph died in infancy; Carrie is the wife of John Boch and they live near Oketo, Kansas; Frank resides near Odell, Nebraska, in Paddock township; Joseph is deceased; John is living in Glenwood township; Minnie is housekeeper for her father.

In 1912 Mr. Masek retired from active farming and bought property in Odell, where he now lives with his daughter Minnie. In politics he has voted the Democratic ticket. He has held township offices, was road overseer and on the school board in Paddock township. He is a member of the Catholic church, which receives liberally of his means. He is owner of two hundred and fifty-two acres of land at the present time, but has owned many more acres. He bought land as fast as he could and gave it to his children, who are farming all through the neighboring townships. He is a shareholder in the State Bank of Odell and the Farmers' Lumber Yard.

EDWARD F. DAVIS is one of the more venerable of the well known pioneer citizens residing in the city of Beatrice, and his career has been one marked by diversified experience as well as by the achievement of worthy success. With marked vigor of mental and physical faculties, though he has passed the eightieth milestone on the journey of life, Mr. Davis still gives a general supervision to his various property interest, the while he keeps in full touch with current events and takes lively interest in all things pertaining to the county and city in which he has long retained his residence. Mr. Davis was born in Herkimer county, New York, June 17, 1836, received in the old Empire state his early educational training, in the common schools, and as a boy and youth he there gained experience not only in farm work but also in the operation of boats on the old Erie canal. Later he was employed as inspector of street improvements in New York city, and this position he retained until a short time before his removal to the west. In 1876 Mr. Davis left the national metropolis and came to Gage county. After devoting about two years to farm enterprise in Riverside township he removed to Beatrice and became owner and manager of the Davis House, which was for many years one of the leading hotels of the city, the building being still owned by him, at the corner of Third and Ella streets, and being kept in good repair as a rooming house. He is the owner of other productive real-estate in Beatrice, as well as his attractive home, at 901 Lincoln street.

Mr. Davis had the distinction of casting his first presidential vote for General John C. Fremont, the first candidate placed in nomination by the newly organized Republican party, and he has voted for each presidential candidate of that party during the long intervening years, never wavering in his belief in the basic principles for which the party has ever stood sponsor. Mr. Davis made a remarkable record of efficiency during his incumbency of the office of sheriff of Gage county. He was elected sheriff in 1885 and continued in service until 1900. He carries himself with the vital erectness of a man many years his junior and with much of distinction, is genial and tolerant, broad-minded and well fortified in his convictions, and he has the high regard of the community in which he has so long maintained his home.

The year 1862 recorded the marriage of Mr. Davis to Miss Helen M. Ferguson, who was born in Herkimer county, New York, on

the 3d of October, 1842, and who continues as the gracious and popular chatelaine of their pleasant home. Of their four children only one is living, Miss Nellie, who remains at the parental home.

ARMSTRONG O. BURKET, senior member of the firm of Burket & Feldkirchner, which is successfully engaged in the retail coal business in the city of Beatrice, came to Gage county thirty years ago and was formerly established as one of the representative exponents of farm industry in Glenwood township. He is now one of the prominent business men and most insistently loyal and progressive citizens of Beatrice, a leader in movements tending to advance the civic and material prosperity of Gage county and its fine judicial center, and he is specially entitled to recognition in this history.

Mr. Burket was born on a farm near Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, December 29, 1863, and is a son of Henry and Mary Jane (Crawford) Burket, both natives of Pennsylvania, their marriage having been solemnized in 1848. Henry Burket became a pioneer farmer in Lee county, Illinois, where he won independence and prosperity through his earnest and honorable endeavors and where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. On the old homestead farm in Lee county, Illinois, Armstrong O. Burket gained in his boyhood and youth the sturdy discipline that well matured his physical powers and that gave him enduring appreciation of the dignity and value of honest toil. He profited duly by the advantages afforded in the public schools of his native county and there he continued his association with farm enterprise until 1887, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased a tract of land on that part of the Otoe Indian reservation that is now included in Glenwood township. There he developed a good farm and there he continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower for a period of seventeen years. For the ensuing six years he gave his attention to effective service as manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Odell. He established his residence in Beatrice, and finally, in January, 1912, after spending eighteen months traveling for the Root Grain Company in Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado, he became associated with his brother-in-law, E. Feldkirchner, in establishing the coal business which they have since successfully conducted under the firm title of Burket & Feldkirchner, with well equipped headquarters at 222 Ella street.

The political allegiance of Mr. Burket is given to the Democratic party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and both he and his wife are zealous members of the First Christian church of Beatrice, in which he holds the office of elder.

On the 23d of December, 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Burket to Miss Ora E. Feldkirchner, who was born and reared in Lee county, Illinois, and they have an interesting family of four children: Hazel is the wife of H. F. Graff, of Beatrice; Neva is a trained nurse by profession and resides in the city of Lincoln; Lulu is a successful and popular teacher and at the time of this writing, in 1918, is teaching in the public schools of Spalding, Greeley county; and Bessie was a member of the class of 1917 in Doan College, at Crete, Saline county.

DANIEL ALBERT.— Few families have given more aggressive and successful demonstration of the splendid potentiality of agricultural and live stock enterprise in Gage county than that of which Daniel Albert is a popular representative, he being a son of Henry Albert, an honored and influential citizen of whom specific mention is made on other pages. Daniel Albert rents from his father two hundred and forty acres of land in Section 26, Clatonia township, and as a vigorous and discriminating young farmer and liberal citizen he is well upholding the prestige of the family name. He was born on his father's old homestead farm, in Clatonia township, November 18, 1884, and his early educational advantages included those of the high school in the village of Clatonia, as well as a course in a business college in the city of

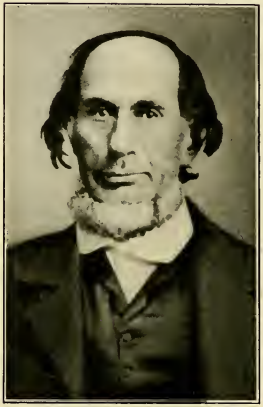
Lincoln. He has had no desire to sever his association with farm enterprise and in connection with the same is achieving substantial success. His father gave him excellent opportunities for independent activities after he had attained to the age of twenty years, for it was at this juncture in his career that he assumed virtual control of his present large and well improved farm, which he maintains under conditions that reveal thrift and good judgment, the while he has shown his progressiveness by adding materially to the improvements on the farm, which is given over to diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent types of live stock. In politics Mr. Albert gives his support to the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

On the 15th of February, 1912, Mr. Albert married Miss Scenta Krauter, who likewise was born and reared in Clatonia township and who is a daughter of Edward and Gezena (Carstens) Krauter, natives of Illinois, the father being still a resident of Clatonia township and the mother being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Albert have two children,—Henry K. and Zena Bernice.

STEPHEN V. SHAW.—One of Gage county's pioneer settlers and one who has contributed his full share to bringing about present-day conditions is Stephen V. Shaw, who is residing on the farm, in Section 21, Adams township, which has been his home for fifty years. Mr. Shaw was born in Dutchess county, New York, January 4, 1844. His father, Stephen P. Shaw, was born in the same county, July 31, 1801, and he became a farmer in his native state. After a short residence in Connecticut he became a pioneer settler in Somers township, Kenosha county, Wisconsin. In 1857 he and his family started overland for Nebraska Territory in true pioneer fashion, driving ox teams. There was a train of six wagons, and of the twenty-one persons who made up the party ten are still living. Mr. Shaw located and maintained squatter's sovereignty on eighty acres of land in what was then known as Clay county, Nebraska (now Gage county). From timber on the south branch of the Nemaha river he cut and hewed the logs with which to build the first house that was to be the family home. He helped organize the first school district in Adams township, and this is now District No. 51. Until his death, which occurred April 1, 1863, Stephen P. Shaw made his home on this pioneer farm. His wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Hicks, was likewise a native of Dutchess county, New York, where she was born February 10, 1801, and she died in Gage county, Nebraska, February 22, 1886.

Of their children the following record is given: William H. was killed, at St. Louis, during the Civil war; Egbert, who also was a soldier in the Civil war, died at Adams, Gage county, in 1895; Mrs. Margaret A. Gale is deceased; Mrs. Emily Silvernail resides at Adams, this county; Mrs. Elmira Lyons is deceased, as is also Mrs. Hannah Noxon; Mrs. Rebecca Silvernail resides at Indianola, Nebraska; James I., who was a soldier in the Civil war, lives at St. Cloud, Florida; and Stephen V. is the immediate subject of this sketch.

The first childish recollections of Stephen V. Shaw are those of his home in the Nutmeg state. He also remembers the trip to Wisconsin, and he was a boy of thirteen years when the trip was made to Nebraska Territory. It was the 6th of July, 1857, when they reached the banks of the Nemaha river, where the home was established. After a trip across the prairies of Illinois and Iowa, the family crossed the Missouri river on a flat-boat. As a boy Mr. Shaw had received such schooling as circumstances would permit, and at the age of sixteen years he had completed his studies in the schools of Nebraska City. He continued to assist in the development and improvement of the home farm until he arrived at his majority, when he made a prospecting trip to Colorado, where he remained one year. Upon returning to Gage county he engaged in farming. He homesteaded a tract of land on Section 21, Adams township, and on this place



STEPHEN P. SHAW

MRS. STEPHEN P. SHAW

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen V. Shaw

he has continued to maintain his home for fifty years.

On November 8, 1866, Mr. Shaw married Miss Minerva Hand, who was born in Niagara county, New York, May 24, 1850, and who passed away on December 7, 1908. Mrs. Shaw was a daughter of William and Anna (Scott) Hand, natives of New York state. William Hand died on board a vessel while with the colony en route for Wisconsin and was buried in the lake. This was during the epidemic of cholera, to which he succumbed. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw became the parents of nine children: Louis V. resides in Custer county, Nebraska; Katie is at home with her father; Almira H. is the wife of J. C. Boyd, a farmer of Sherman township; Mrs. Ada McKnight resides at Adams, this county; Mrs. Alice Kauffman is a resident of Havelock, Nebraska; Mrs. Carrie E. Palmer lives at Chappell, Nebraska; May R. and Charles E. are at home; and Eva Rae resides in the city of Lincoln, this state.

Mr. Shaw has been an eye witness to all the changes that have taken place in this county, and has always done his share in the march of progress. In 1862-1863 he freighted out of Nebraska City with oxen. In December, 1864, he drove to Colorado, distributing goods along the way. When the local Presbyterian church was organized, in 1860, his mother was made superintendent of the Sunday school, and she continued to hold that position until her death.

In both paternal and maternal lines Mr. Shaw's ancestors participated in the Revolutionary war. He has every reason to be proud of the record of the family in Gage county, and he is held in highest esteem by all with whom he has come in contact.

HENRY KASPAREK.— The untimely death of Henry Kasparek called from earthly activities one of the younger business men of Odell,— one who for fifteen years had given his best energies to the moral, social and commercial uplift of his community. Mr. Kasparek was born at Chicago, Illinois, April 11, 1874. He was a son of Adolph Kasparek, who was a native of Bohemia and who belonged to that class of foreign-born citizens who have done much for the development of Nebraska. Henry Kasparek was a child of two years when the family home was established in Jefferson county, Nebraska. Reared on a farm, he early learned those lessons of industry and enterprise which are of such value as to assure success in any and every walk of life.

In 1900 Henry Kasparek came to Odell and purchased the business conducted by one of Odell's pioneer citizens, Frank J. Truxaw. Until his death, April 8, 1914, Mr. Kasparek gave his best efforts to make a place for himself in the business affairs of Odell. Success had crowned his efforts, as may be seen by the neatly arranged place of business he had established. His chosen line was the furniture and undertaking business, in connection with which he handled a full line of linoleums, rugs, and musical instruments. A complete and extensive stock of goods was carried, and the faith and trust reposed in him by the people of the community were unbounded. Since his death his widow has continued the business, employing a capable manager to handle her affairs.

As a companion and helpmeet Mr. Kasparek chose for his wife Miss Anna Tejcka, a native of Gage county, Nebraska, her parents having been early settlers in Sicily township. Mrs. Kasparek is a daughter of Frank and Josephine (Prucha) Tejcka, natives of Bohemia. The father is deceased and the mother still resides on the old home place, in Sicily township.

Mr. and Mrs. Kasparek became the parents of four sons, who with their mother occupy a beautiful home in Odell. The names of these boys are Frank, Clarence, Vernon and Everett. Mr. Kasparek was a faithful member of the Christian church of Odell, having joined that church April 14, 1908. He was also a member of the Odell lodges of the I. O.O.F. and the Z. C. B. A. He was a devoted husband and father, an energetic business man and a first-class citizen, a man who stood for progress, and real friendship, and

one who thought more of others than of himself. He lived an unselfish life, and was one whom his family and the community could ill afford to lose.

PHILIP A. BINDERNAGEL.— A member of one of the honored pioneer families of Gage county, Mr. Bindernagel has here maintained his home from the time of his birth and he is now numbered among the successful and representative agriculturists and stockgrowers of his native township, his well improved and ably managed farm of one hundred and sixty acres being situated in Section 35, Blakely township, and being a part of the large landed estate of the family.

Mr. Bindernagel was born in Blakely township on the 25th of November, 1874, and is a son of Philip and Margaret (Marschel) Bindernagel, concerning whose other children brief mention may here be made, the subject of this review having been the second in order of birth; Rosa now presides over the domestic economies of her father's pleasant home in the city of Beatrice, having assumed this responsibility after the death of her mother; David M. is numbered among the progressive farmers of Lincoln township, this county; Elizabeth is the wife of George W. Stevens, of Lincoln township; Caroline died in the year 1909; and Emma is the wife of L. K. Stevens, of Blakely township.

Philip Bindernagel was born in Germany, on the 28th of January, 1838, and there continued his residence until 1852, when he established his home in the city of London, England, where he found employment at his trade, that of baker. A few years thereafter he came to America and engaged in the work of his trade in New York city, and in 1866 he came to Nebraska Territory, and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Filley township, and here he endured the full tension of hardships and deprivations incidental to life on the virtual frontier. The passing years, marked by his indefatigable and earnest application, brought to him independence and definite prosperity, as is clearly demonstrated by the fact that he is now the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred and eighty acres in Blakely township, this county, and an equal amount in Sherman county, Kansas. He gave earnestly and effectively of his energies and abilities in furthering the social and industrial development and progress of the county, has ever commanded the confidence and good will of his fellow citizens and in his venerable years he is living in well earned retirement in his attractive home in the city of Beatrice. He has been a lifelong communicant of the Lutheran church, as was also his devoted wife, who was his true helpmeet in the days of their early struggle to make for themselves a home and a place of independence in Nebraska, the state having been admitted to the Union about one year after they had established their residence on the pioneer farm in Gage county. Mrs. Bindernagel was born in Germany on the 22d of October, 1850, and was summoned to the life eternal on the 23d of February, 1913, her memory being revered by those who came within the compass of her gentle influence. On other pages of this work appears a specific record of the career of Philip Bindernagel.

Philip A. Bindernagel supplemented the discipline of the district schools by attending the Beatrice high school, and in 1907 he rented of his father his present farm, which he has made a model of thrift and prosperity and upon which he has made many excellent improvements, including the erection of his commodious modern house and a barn thirty-two by thirty-four feet in dimensions, with an eighteen-foot wing. He takes loyal interest in all things touching the walfare of his native county and home community, is a Republican in politics and both he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

February 26, 1908, recorded the marriage of Mr. Bindernagel to Miss Bertha Brosious, who was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, where she was reared and educated — a daughter of Charles Brosious, who likewise was born in the old Keystone

state. Mr. Bindernagel made the acquaintance of his wife while he was visiting in Pennsylvania, and there their marriage was solemnized. They have had two children, Orval Philip born November 5, 1910, and Louise A. born November 21, 1915.

JOSEPH KROTZ.—Among the citizens of foreign birth who have done much toward the upbuilding of Gage county, Nebraska, none deserve more credit than those sturdy men and women, natives of Bohemia, who came to Nebraska in the late 70s, and became instrumental in converting into productive farms and beautiful homes the raw prairies that had but recently been occupied by the Indians. To this class belongs Joseph Krotz. In the province of Bohemia, dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, there lived one Vencel Krotz, who, having heard favorable reports of America from friends and neighbors who had found in the "land of the free" the opportunities that were not obtainable in their native land, gathered his family and a few earthly goods, and crossed the ocean. He made his way to Washington county, Iowa, where many of his countrymen had settled, and arrived in that state in 1867. Eleven years later we find him again seeking a new home, this time where he knew land could be had at much cheaper price than in the more thickly settled region of Iowa. The first year the family lived at the old town of Charleston, in Gage county, and then he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in what is now Glenwood township. The first home was a sod house and in this the family resided while initiating the work of conquering the virgin Nebraska soil. Mr. Krotz prospered, and here he made his home until he was called from his earthly labors.

The maiden name of the first wife of Vencel Krotz, was Catherine Kumbera, who passed away in their native land. Later he there married a second time, Miss Anna Soper becoming his wife. She still resides on the old home farm in Glenwood township. The two children of the first marriage are Mary, who is the wife of Fred Hoffmeister, of Imperial, Chase county, Nebraska, and Joseph, who is the immediate subject of this sketch. Of the children of the second marriage it is to be recorded that John is a farmer of Paddock township; Anna is the wife of William Hohl, of Prague, Saunders county, Nebraska; and Frances is the wife of Frank Benda, on the old home place in Glenwood township.

Joseph Krotz was but four years of age when the family home was established in the new world, he having been born in Bohemia, the land of his fathers, on the 21st of May, 1863. When the home was transferred from Iowa to Nebraska he was a boy of fifteen years. He gave valuable assistance in transforming the Indian lands to productive property. Remaining with his parents until his thirty-first year, Joseph Krotz was then assisted by his father in the purchase of the farm on which he began farming on his own account. Mr. Krotz made further preparation for a home of his own by his marriage, on May 21, 1894, to Miss Carrie Bednar, also a native of Bohemia, where she was born November 4, 1872. Her parents were among the early settlers of Nebraska and a record of them will be found elsewhere in this history. Mr. Krotz has met with success in his farming operations, and to-day is the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. For several years he has made a specialty of raising pure-bred Aberdeen Angus cattle, and in the spring of 1918 he had forty head of fine registered stock in his yards just south of Odell.

Mr. Krotz and family occupy a beautiful home in Odell, and in the household are three happy children,—Marcellus, Laird and Evelyn. The family are communicants of the Catholic church, the faith of which was the religion of the parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Krotz. In politics Mr. Krotz is a Democrat, but he has never desired or held any office, preferring to devote his entire time to his business affairs, in which he has met with goodly success. There was no railroad in the vicinity when the Krotz family located on

what had been the Otoe Indian reservation. Odell was not in existance. The old town of Charleston had been located, but in later years it was abandoned. The old site of Charleston and land on which William Le Gourgue founded the town now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Krotz. Mr. Krotz has seen the wild, unbroken prairie develop into beautiful homes and farms, and in this splendid transformation he has done his full share.

THOMAS REMMERS was a vigorous and ambitious young man of twenty-three years when he came to Gage county, in the year in which Nebraska was admitted to statehood. None has borne with greater fortitude and determination the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life on the western frontier, and it is gratifying to record that the passing years have brought to him a generous measure of prosperity. He accumulated and developed a fine landed estate in this county and continued his active association with farm enterprise until 1906, since which time he and his wife have lived retired in the city of Beatrice, in enjoyment of good health and the gracious rewards of former years of earnest endeavor, their attractive home being at 1009 High street.

Mr. Remmers was born in East Friesland, a district in the extreme northwestern part of the province of Hanover, Germany, and the date of his nativity was September 16, 1843. He is a son of John and Catherine (Henrechs) Remmers, and his father followed farm enterprise and operated a brick yard in East Friesland until financial reverses overtook him, and in 1868 he came with his family to America. Near the city of Springfield, Illinois, he and his adult sons found employment in a harvest field, and while thus engaged he suffered a sunstroke that caused his death. In the autumn of the same year (1868) the bereaved widow came with her six children to the new state of Nebraska, and later she became the wife of John Eilers, the closing years of her life having been passed at Sterling, Johnson county, where she died in 1883, when about sixty-three years of age. For generations the earnest religious faith of the family has been that of the Lutheran church.

Thomas Remmers acquired his youthful education in his native land and was twenty-two years of age when he came to America, the family following two years later. After passing a few weeks at Springfield, Illinois, he came to Nebraska. He arrived at Nebraska City on the 4th of July, 1866, and later in the month he joined a freighting outfit with which he made the arduous overland trip to Fort Laramie and Denver, as driver of an ox team. He arrived once more in Nebraska City in the middle of the following November, and he then found employment at farm work, at fifty cents a day and board, he having been nine dollars in debt when he first arrived in Nebraska City. In the spring of 1867 Mr. Remmers came to Gage county and entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of untrammeled prairie land, in Hanover township. His first house was a rude dug-out, which later gave place to a log house, and in the latter he continued to maintain bachelor's hall until his marriage, in 1871, to Mrs. Sophia Day, widow of Benjamin Day. Mrs. Remmers was born in Hanover Germany, in 1845, a daughter of John and Maria Yelkin, and she was a child of eighteen months when the family came to the United States and located near Springfield, Illinois. She was there reared to the age of twelve years and then came with her parents to Nebraska City, the family home later having been established on a pioneer farm in Nemaha county, where she was reared to adult age and where she became the wife of Benjamin Day. Mr. Day died a few years later, leaving his widow with two children,— John, who is now a resident of Adams, Gage county, and Ida, who is the wife of Frederick Schuster, of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Remmers have five children: Henry, John and William are all prosperous and representative farmers in Hanover tonship; Mary is the wife of Harms D. Harms and they reside on her father's old homestead farm, in Hanover township; and Catherine is the wife of Frederick Damerow,

a successful farmer residing a few miles south of Beatrice.

In their primitive pioneer home Mr. and Mrs. Remmers bravely faced the hardships and privations of the early days when they were striving to make their way forward toward the goal of prosperity, and their devoted companionship has continued during the long intervening years. In taking his young wife to the new home Mr. Remmers used a wagon and ox team. He finally provided one horse, but had no buggy. He later traded oxen for another horse, and the harness for the new team consisted only of hames and chains. From his farm he took a quantity of butter to Lincoln, where he sold the same for a sufficient sum to enable him to buy a harness for his team. The little log cabin constituted the family domicile many years, and though humble it was the abode of happiness and known for its hospitality. Coffee was made ready for use by pounding the same into fragments, but eventually the household was provided with a coffee-mill. Indefatigable industry and good management brought cumulative success to Mr. Remmers and eventually he became the owner of a valuable farm property of eight hundred acres, all of which he has sold to his children with the exception of forty acres, which he still retains.

Mr. Remmers was one of the honored and influential citizens of Hanover township until he and his wife removed to Beatrice, and he was called upon to serve in various positions of public trust. He was township assessor five years, tax collector three years and served many terms as road overseer. During the long period of his residence on the farm he only twice had to call for the ministrations of a physician for himself, and he and his good wife are now hale and hearty, and in the gracious twilight of their long and earnest lives find that their lines are cast in pleasant places. Both are active members of the German Lutheran church and in a fundamental way he gives his allegiance to the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Remmers have been true apostles of social and industrial progress in Gage county and here their circle of friends is limited only by that of their acquaintances. Mr. Remmers related that in 1868, when his nearest neighbor was two miles distant, four Indians called at his home and demanded provisions. He supplied them and they then took their departure.

JOHN E. CARSTEN.— Measured by its rectitude and worthy achievement, the life of the late John E. Carsten counted for much, and his character was the positive expression of a strong and noble nature. He established his home in Gage county nearly half a century ago, did well his part in developing the resources of this section of the state and in supporting civic progress. He reclaimed and improved one of the fine farms of Clatonia township and was one of the substantial and influential citizens of Clatonia township, he having removed from his farm to the village of Clatonia about three months prior to his death, which occurred July 15, 1908, and his widow still maintains her home in that village,— one of the gracious and revered pioneer women who bore her full share in the trials and struggles of the early days.

Mr. Carsten was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 24th of February, 1843. He was the eldest of five children born to John M. and Gesche (Eschen) Carsten, the latter of whom died in Germany and the former of whom passed the closing period of his life in Gage county, Nebraska. The subject of this memoir was reared to the discipline of the farm and gained in the schools of his native land his early educational training. In 1866, as a young man of twenty-one years, he entered the Hanovarian army and assisted the Germans in their conflict with Austria and participated in various engagements, including the battle of Langensalza. He completed his military service before the close of 1866, and in the same year immigrated to America, embarking in the port of Bremen and landing in that of New York city about three weeks later. Continuing his way to the west, he located in Schuyler county, Illinois, in which state he continued his association with farm enterprise until 1873, when he came with his

family to Nebraska and became one of the pioneers of Gage county. From the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company he purchased, at seven dollars an acre, one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land, in Section 11 Clatonia township, four and one-half miles northeast of Clatonia. He developed his farm, made the best of improvements on the same, adding eventually to the area of his landed estate in Clatonia township. He lived up to the full tension of pioneer experience and in making his way to the goal of independence and material success he ever attributed much of credit to the earnest coöperation of his devoted wife, who was a veritable helpmeet and who remained his cherished companion until the close of his life. Mrs. Carsten owns the attractive home which she occupies in the village of Clatonia and also an interest in the two Gage county farms which are now operated by her sons.

At Rushville, Illinois, on the 12th of March, 1868, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Carsten to Miss Mary Schmid, who was born in Germany, on the 1st of February, 1847, and whose parents, Jurgen and Etta (Goldenstein) Schmid, there passed their entire lives. Mrs. Carsten was reared and educated in her native land and was a young woman of eighteen years when she came to the United States, in the autumn of 1866. She established her residence in Illinois and there she and her husband remained until after the birth of their first two children, who accompanied them in 1873 to Nebraska and were reared to maturity in Gage county, where were born the younger children. George J., eldest of the children, was born in Schuyler county, Illinois, on the 24th of February, 1869, and is now a resident of Stockton, Kansas, where he follows the vocation of farming; Lillie G., who was born July 15, 1873, was an infant at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, and she is now the wife of Harry Hersema, of Clatonia township; Arthur E., who was born August 16, 1876, is a resident of Mountain View, Oklahoma; Mary Anetta, Born April 12, 1879, is the wife of J. H. Claussen and they reside in Danforth, Illinois; Theodore Frederick, born January 31, 1881, is engaged in the banking business at Hallam, Lancaster county, Nebraska; Alvin Benjamin, who was born October 27, 1882, resides upon and has the active management of the old homestead farm, in Clatonia township; and Emma F., born June 29, 1885, remains with her widowed mother.

John E. Carsten was progressive both in his individual activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower and also in his civic attitude. His course was guided and governed by the highest integrity and he commanded the unqualified respect and confidence of all who knew him. He was zealous in giving to his children the best possible educational advantages and was influential in community affairs. He was a Republican in politics, and he was called upon to serve as assessor of Clatonia township, as a member of the township election board and as a member of the school board of his district. He was a most earnest and active member of the German Methodist Episcopal church of Clatonia township, of which he was one of the founders and of which he served many years as a trustee, his widow continuing an earnest member of the same religious organization. The name of Mr. Carsten merits enduring place on the roster of the honored pioneers of Gage county and his memory is cherished by those who came within the compass of his unassuming and kindly influence.

JOHN TJADEN. — The march of civilization has ever been westward, and in reviewing the career of John Tjaden one is impressed with such trend of advancement as manifested in the individual person. Mr. Tjaden's parents, Harm and Antgie (Fahsler) Tjaden were born and reared in Germany and about the year 1870 they left their native land and came west to America, first settling in Missouri and later in Richardson county, Nebraska. Here Harm Tjaden engaged in farm enterprise and later he removed to Marshall county, Kansas, where he purchased land and continued his farming activities. His wife

died in February, 1913, and since 1917 he has lived retired in the city of Beatrice, Nebraska. Of the family of ten children eight are living: William, George, and Flora reside in Kansas, where Flora makes her home with her brother William; Henry resides at Wymore, Gage county, Nebraska; Margaret is the wife of J. J. Remers and they live in Kansas; John is the subject of this sketch; Anna, the second of the name, is the wife of W. C. Ehnen, a farmer of Barneston township; Emma is the wife of John Ubben, and they live in Kansas; and Anna (first of the name) and Meta are deceased. Harm Tjaden is a Republican in politics. He disposed of his land in Kansas and Nebraska and is now retired from active life, to enjoy the reward of his past labor as a pioneer of Nebraska and Kansas.

John Tjaden was born December 31, 1879, and received his education in the district schools of Kansas. From his boyhood he has been identified with agricultural pursuits — first in his apprenticeship, during which he was employed as a farm hand, and later in conducting operations on his own land.

February 12, 1902, John Tjaden married Miss Rena Agnes Ehnen, who was born January 4, 1883, in Illinois, the daughter of Rempt Ehnen. Mr. and Mrs. Tjaden became the parents of four children, of whom three are living: Eleanora Meta was born September 12, 1911; Harm Wilke was born February 21, 1916; Relma Rosella was born January 14, 1917; and Relma Antgie, died at the age of three months.

John Tjaden owns two hundred and eighty acres of land in Gage county and eighty acres in Kansas. He is a vigorous and progressive young farmer and is devoting all of his time to his successful industrial enterprise. In 1914 he built a beautiful farm house on his home place, in Section 33, Barnston township, and he has thus provided an attractive home for his family, besides giving evidence of his progressiveness and definite prosperity. It is his earnest desire to give to his children good educational advantages and also the refining influence of an ideal home life. In politics Mr. Tjaden is independent. He and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church. He is a member of the Farmers Union, an organization which has in its membership the best element of the yeomanry of the county and which is doing much in promoting the advancement and best interests of the farmers of Gage county.

ADDISON P. KELLEY, who is the efficient and popular manager of the general-delivery department of the postoffice in the city of Beatrice, was born at Marengo, McHenry county, Illinois, April 16, 1855, and is a son of Henry D. and Roxcey A. (Sponable) Kelley, the former a native of Danby, Rutland county, Vermont, and the latter of Eden township, Seneca county, Ohio, their marriage having been solemnized in McHenry county, Illinois, where Mrs. Kelley's parents settled when she was eight years of age. Henry D. Kelley was reared and educated in the old Green Mountain state and was twenty-one years of age when he established his residence in Illinois. In that state he continued his association with farm enterprise until 1872, when he came with his family to Nebraska. Later he took up a homestead claim in Phillips county, Kansas, where he improved a good farm and where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Kelley became one of the prominent and influential citizens of Phillips county, was a successful exponent of farm industry, and served for a time as postmaster of the village of Myrtle. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and his wife was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Concerning their children the following brief data are available: George C. is deceased, John died in infancy; Frank is a successful carpenter and contractor in the city of Beatrice; Addison P., of this review, was the next in order of birth; William D. is a prosperous farmer in Morgan county, Kansas; Jennie C. is the widow of Ray P. Foy and resides at Beatrice, her two children being Mrs. Taylor M. Cain of Ogden, Utah, and Charles H., who is a railroad man, residing at Laramie, Wyoming; May, next younger of the children of the Kelley family,

is the wife of W. E. S. Kuhn, of Fort Morgan, Colorado; and Edson M. was killed in a railroad accident, when about thirty-two years of age. Daniel Kelley, grandfather of the subject of this review, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, and passed the closing years of his life at Prospect Park, Illinois. The maternal grandfather, Christopher Sponable, was born in Ohio and became a pioneer settler in Illinois, in 1832. He became a man of wealth and influence, accumulated an extensive farm property in Illinois and at one time was the owner of eleven acres of land lying adjacent to Wabash avenue in the city of Chicago — property now of prodigious value.

Addison P. Kelley acquired his early education in the public schools of McHenry county, Illinois, and in 1872 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he found prompt requisition for his services as a teacher in the district schools, his pedagogic career having been initiated when he was eighteen years of age. In Gage county his professional services included a year of successful teaching in the schools of Beatrice, he having taken preparatory normal study at Vinton, Iowa. His ambition was to fit himself for the medical profession but upon the death of his father he was thrown upon his own resources, besides assisting in the support of his widowed mother and the younger children. On the 1st of September, 1894, Mr. Kelley began his service in the Beatrice postoffice, with which he has since continued his connection without interruption and in which he now has charge of the general-delivery department, his advancement having been won through efficient service and his long experience making him an authority in connection with postal affairs in Beatrice and its various rural mail routes.

In politics Mr. Kelley is a staunch Republican, he holds membership in the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church in Beatrice, and is prominently affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity, in the former of which he has passed the official chairs not only in the lodge but also in the encampment body.

In 1904 Mr. Kelley wedded Miss Mary Nicodemus, who was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and whose death occurred in 1911, no children having been born of this union.

LEWIS RATHBUN was born in Henry county, Illinois, June 8, 1861, and is a son of James Rathbun, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared on a farm in his native state, he was a young man of twenty-two years when he came to Gage county. He has always been engaged in farming and is now operating one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his father. He is practical in his methods and meeting with the success which always comes to the man who is industrious.

Mr. Rathbun was married to Miss Anna Hebel, a native of Bohemia, Germany, and a daughter of Joseph and Mary Hebel, who are mentioned elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun are the parents of six children: Bertha is the wife of Joseph Kasparek, of Odell; Lee is in the national army, at Camp Pike; Elmer is married and lives at Anamosa, Iowa; and Arthur, Jesse, and Genevieve are at the parental home.

Mr. Rathbun is a Democrat. He has been road overseer for ten years, and a member of the school board for seven years. He is also a director of the Cemetery Association. His home is in the corporate limits of Odell.

OWEN L. SAVAGE clearly manifests his progressivenes in his effective management of his well equipped meat market in the city of Beatrice, and the efficiency of the service has gained to the market a substantial and representative supporting patronage. This well ordered business establishment is located at 513 Ella street.

Mr. Savage was born in Putnam county, Illinois, on the 25th of August, 1862, and is a son of Hiram and Angeline (Angle) Savage, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they removed to Illinois, in which state they maintained their residence until the spring of 1868, when they came to

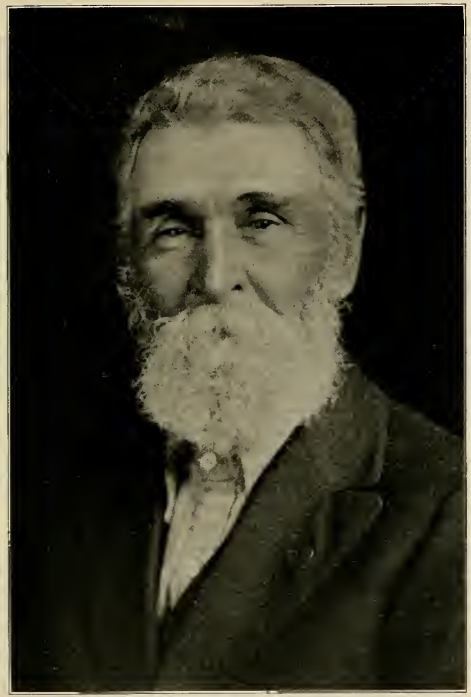
the newly admitted state of Nebraska and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Gage county. They located on an unimproved and not large tract of land, near the present village of Dewitt, where they established their residence on the 21st of March, 1868, and the father began the reclamation and improvement of this farm, on which he continued his operations until 1875, when he removed with his family to Beatrice, which was then a mere village. Here Hiram Savage served for many years in the office of constable and he was the incumbent of this position at the time of his death. He died when about seventy-one years of age and his wife passed away when she was about the same age, both having been members of the Methdist Episcopal church and his political support having been given to the Republican party. The father of Hiram Savage was born and reared in Pennsylvania, of Irish lineage, and he sacrificed his life while serving as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war, he having been killed in an engagement near Cottonwood Grove, Arkansas. Of the eight children of Hiram and Angeline Savage four are living: Milo is a resident of Seattle, Washington; Owen L., of this review, is the next younger; Nancy Ellen is the wife of Schuyler Jackson, of Beatrice; and George W., who resides at El Paso, Texas, is a passenger conductor on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of five years at the time of his parents' removal to Nebraska, and he was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days, his early educational advantages having been those of the public schools. He was ten years old when the family home was established in Beatrice, and as a youth he here attended school during the winters, and in the summer seasons gave his attention to the herding of cattle on the prairies. In the establishment of Bradt Brothers he finally learned the butcher's trade, and he worked in the meat market of this firm for eighteen months, besides having been employed about one year on the ranch owned by the brothers. Finally he engaged in the meat-market business in an independent way and he is now one of the veteran representatives of this important line of business enterprise in Beatrice, his market having been conducted in the present location since 1910 and the establishment being definitely metropolitan in appointments and service.

In 1886 Mr. Savage wedded Miss Emma Jackson, who was born in the city of Rochester, New York, and whose parents came to Nebraska about 1870, she being a daughter of the late William Jackson, a resident of Thayer county at the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Savage became the parents of four children, of whom only one is living, Pearl Lorene, who is the wife of William H. Schwartz, the latter being associated with Mr. Savage in the conducting of the meat market. Mr. Savage and his wife and daughter are all active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, he is a Republican in politics, is a loyal citizen who takes deep interest in community affairs, and he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights & Ladies of Honor, the Royal Neighbors and the Royal Highlanders. His success represents the concrete results of his own efforts and he is one of the representative business men of the Gage county metropolis.

HENRY RICE. — An honored soldier of the Civil war and an early settler of Gage county is the subject of this review, and by his own efforts he has made the success that enables him to spend the evening of life in well earned rest from active labors.

Henry Rice was born at Hagerstown, Maryland, September 20, 1842, a son of Henry and Hannah (Friedly) Rice, who likewise were natives of Maryland, the father having died June 30, 1842, about three months before the son Henry was born. Henry Rice was but little past two years of age when he was bereft also of his mother. He then fell to the kindly care of an aunt, Catherine Rice, by whom he was taken to Ogle county, Illinois, and there reared to manhood. He attended the public schools, which education was supplemented by a course in Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris, Illinois. He was a



HENRY RICE

student in this institution when arose the dark cloud that threatened to disrupt the Union. Having watched the course of events, his patriotism was aroused to responsive protest, and December 12, 1863, he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, with which he served in defense of the Union during the Civil war. His service covered a period of nearly three years, and he was mustered out at Houston, Texas, his honorable discharge having been given in June, 1866.

He took part in fifty-eight engagements and skirmishes, the principal ones being Vicksburg, Red River campaign, and Hood's campaign against Nashville. He rendered valued service in guarding the Memphis & Charleston, the Mississippi Central, and the Mobile & Ohio Railroads. He was distinguished for coolness and bravery in time of battle and returned home unhurt, though he was often in the thickest of the fight. When he started out for himself in life after returning from the war Mr. Rice took up the noble profession of teaching school, and for eight years he devoted his attention to this service, readily imparting to others the knowledge he had gained and carefully saving his earnings. In 1874 he was thus enabled to engage in agricultural pursuits and to purchase eighty acres of land in Ogle county, Illinois. In 1883 he sold out in Illinois and came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres, on which stood a little shanty and a small board stable. He immediately set to work developing and improving the farm and in due time it became one of the finest farms of Paddock township. Until fifteen years ago he was actively engaged in general farming, since which time he has lived retired, having placed the mantle on the shoulders of his sons, who operate the farm.

March 25, 1874, Mr. Rice was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Hitt, a native of New York state, where she was born September 21, 1846, a daughter of Samuel and Janet (Campbell) Hitt, who became residents of Ogle county, Illinois, in 1856. August 1, 1917, Mr. Rice was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who, for more than forty-four years had been a loving companion and helpmeet. She bore her husband three sons: Charles E. and Andrew are unmarried and operate the old home farm; George, who married Hazel Brooks, operates the Brooks farm in Sicily township.

Mr. Rice is a Republican in politics and maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades by membership in Reserve Post, No. 148, Grand Army of the Republic, at Odell. Mr. Rice has contributed much to the growth and development of Gage county and in all these years of peace he has been as true and loyal as when he was following the stars and stripes on the battlefields of the South.

FRANK H. WANDERSEE was born in Beatrice, Nebraska, August 4, 1879, and in the spring of 1880 his parents established their home in Sicily township. Here he was reared to manhood and here he has continuously resided in his present neighborhood. Mr. Wandersee is a son of Frank Wandersee, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume.

Frank H. Wandersee was educated in the public schools of Gage county, and spent his boyhood days between the district schoolroom and his father's farm, early learning the best methods of tilling the soil and the proper care of crops and live stock, so that when he arrived at young manhood he was in position to assume the responsible duties of a farmer on his own account. Mr. Wandersee is now farming a quarter-section of land, in Section 8, Sicily township, and is meeting with the success that always comes to the man who is industrious and efficient.

Mr. Wandersee made preparation for a home of his own when he chose for a wife and helpmeet Miss Susan Lewis, of Carlton, Nebraska. She is a daughter of George G. Lewis, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Wandersee have two children,— Edna and LeRoy.

GEORGE G. LEWIS is one of Sicily township's successful farmers, and he owns and

resides on a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 20. Mr. Lewis was born in Mills county, Iowa, September 28, 1866, and is a son of George W. and Maria (Waitt) Lewis, the former of whom was born in Illinois and the latter in Ohio. The marriage of the parents occurred in Mills county, Iowa, they having been children when their parents there became pioneer settlers. George W. Lewis was a successful farmer, owning land in Mills county, Iowa, where both he and his wife remained until their death.

On the old home farm in Mills county, Iowa, George G. Lewis, the subject of this record, was reared. At the age of nineteen years he became a farmer on his own account, but he continued to make his home under his father's roof until he had attained to the age of twenty-three years. He then came to Nebraska, and for two years he operated a farm in Sicily township, Gage county. He then moved to Thayer county, Nebraska, and bought one hundred and twenty acres of raw prairie land, entirely unimproved. For fourteen years he lived on this farm, which he then sold. He then came again to Gage county, where he purchased his present farm. Here he has since been successfully engaged in general farming business.

In Gage county Mr. Lewis married Miss Mattie C. Heddings, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio. Her parents, Jacob and Mary (Grill) Heddings, came to Gage county more than fifty years ago, when their daughter was one year of age, and were among the earliest settlers near Blue Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis became the parents of six children: Susan is the wife of Frank H. Wandersee, of Sicily township; Ceola is the wife of J. D. Snyder, of Blue Springs, this county; Howard is married and lives in the city of Beatrice; Jessie is teaching in the schools of Gage county; and Mamie and Fay are at home.

Though they lived several years outside of the county, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis began their domestic career within the borders of the township where they now live, and they are here held in high esteem by a host of neighbors and other friends.

LEE L. CHAPMAN, the efficient and popular foreman of the freight department at the Beatrice station of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, was born at Metamore, Woodford county, Illinois, on the 30th of March, 1858, and is a son of John and Verona (Kellogg) Chapman, both natives of the state of Vermont and both representatives of sterling old families of New England. John Chapman was about seventy-eight years of age at the time his death and his venerable widow, who was born at Stowe, Lamoille county, Vermont, October 25, 1834, now maintains her home at Beatrice, Nebraska. He was a son of Simon Chapman, who removed in an early day from the old Green Mountain state to Ohio, where he passed the remainder of his life. John Chapman removed from Ohio to Illinois about the year 1852, and though he was a shoemaker by trade, he purchased land in Woodford county, Illinois, and there turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1885 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased land and where he became a substantial farmer and highly esteemed citizen. About one year prior to his death he removed to the city of Beatrice. He was a man of fine mentality and most gracious personality. He was reared in the faith of the Universalist church and as a splendid vocalist he sang in church choirs for many years. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party and he was insistently loyal and public-spirited as a citizen. He was the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of land in Gage county at the time of his death, and the property is still owned by his family, his widow owning an additional tract of eighty acres of land in Woodford county, Illinois. Of their eight children seven attained to years of maturity and six are now living, the subject of this review having been the second in order of birth; Jesse is a carpenter by trade and lives at Saybrook, Illinois; Smith is a skilled mechanic and is employed in one of the leading industrial establishments in the city of Beatrice; Verna is the wife of C. B. Bell, of this city; Percival J. has the active management of his

father's old homestead farm, in Sicily township; and Grace is the wife of T. J. Sample, of Beatrice.

Lee L. Chapman acquired his early education in the public schools of Illinois and there supplemented this discipline by a course in an academy. He was reared on his father's farm and was twenty-seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, Nebraska. Here he was associated with farm enterprise one year and then he found employment in the Beatrice freight office of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, he having been foreman of the local freight department for somewhat more than fifteen years and having proved a most efficient and popular executive in this field of service.

In 1883 Mr. Chapman wedded Miss Frances A. Van Meter, who was born in the state of Indiana, and they have two children: Dale R., who resides in Beatrice and is in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, married Miss Laura Yule, and they have three children,—Glenn, Helen, and Donald L.; Jessie is the wife of L. J. Griesel, who is engaged in the banking business at University Place, Nebraska.

In politics Mr. Chapman is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, he is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World, and both he and his wife are most zealous members of the Presbyterian church in their home city, he being a deacon in the same.

LAMMERT W. FRERICHS came to Gage county in 1882 and acquired a tract of raw prairie land in Logan township. His financial resources were limited but he had the genius of industry and perseverance, as well as mature judgment, so that he proved successful in his farm enterprise, the successive years of earnest and constructive application bringing to him cumulative prosperity. He is now the owner of a valuable landed estate of eight hundred acres, in Logan township, and the various farms included in this property are under the able management of his sons, he and his wife having lived retired in the city of Beatrice since the spring of 1917, and their pleasant home being at 820 Market street.

Mr. Frerichs was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, September 19, 1845, was there reared and educated and there gained his initial experience in farm enterprise. In 1866, shortly after attaining to his legal majority, Mr. Frerichs came to America, proceeded to the state of Illinois and found employment on a farm near Mount Sterling, Brown county. Later he was similarly engaged in Adams county, that state. After his marriage he became the owner of a farm of forty acres, in Hancock county, Illinois, and there he continued his activities as an agriculturist until 1882, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in Logan township. On the embryonic farm he erected a frame house, sixteen by twenty-six feet in dimensions, and as success attended his strenuous activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower he not only made the best of improvements on his homestead but also gradually added to the area of his landed estate, which is now one of the valuable properties of Logan township.

At Carthage, Illinois, March 20, 1869, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Frerichs to Miss Maria H. Rankin, who likewise was born and reared in Hanover, Germany, and who came to the United States in 1867, their acquaintanceship having been formed near Mount Sterling, Illinois. Mrs. Frerichs has proved a true helpmeet to her husband and shares with him in the rewards that have crowned their years of earnest endeavor. Concerning their children the following brief record is properly given at this point: Polk and his wife reside on one of his father's farms in Logan township, all except one of the other sons being likewise in charge of farm properties owned by their father in that township; Lammert, Jr., and his wife have four children; Gerhard and his wife likewise have four children; John is the father of three children; William is a representative farmer in Franklin county and is the father of eight children; Maria became the wife of John

Fritzen and is now deceased, being survived by six children; Lena is the wife of Diedrich Ordman, of Logan township, and they have ten children; Alice married O. Zimmerman, a farmer in Logan township and they have five children; Annie is the wife of Thomas Trauernicht, of Logan township, and they have three children; and Gracie died in childhood.

Mr. Frerichs lived up to all civic responsibilities incidental to increasing prosperity and was one of the liberal and progressive men of Logan township while there actively engaged in farm industry. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, and and while on the farm he served one year as tax collector, while for fifteen years he was treasurer of his school district. Both he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

WILLIAM N. FARLOW, now sole owner of the prosperous and important industrial enterprise conducted under the title of the Beatrice Brick Works, is essentially one of the progressive business men and representative citizens of the Gage county metropolis and judicial center. He gained as a child his initial experience in connection with pioneer life in the west, and thus it is but natural that he should exemplify in his personality the vital spirit that has significantly characterized those reared under the inspiring and sturdy discipline of the great empire of the west.

At Miamistown, Indiana, on the old Miami Indian reservation, Mr. Farlow was born on October 10, 1852, and he has the distinction of being a scion of one of the old and honored pioneer families of the Hoosier state, his grandfather, Simeon Farlow, having been born in North Carolina, of English ancestry, and having become a very early settler of Indiana, where the history of the state records that he was an earnest and self-sacrificing pioneer clergyman and gave much time to preaching to and otherwise aiding the Indians. He whose name introduces this article is a son of John and Lydia (Goodwin) Farlow, the former a native of Wayne county, Indiana, and the latter of the state of Ohio. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Indiana and there they continued their residence until 1856, when they numbered themselves among the pioneers of Taylor county, Iowa. There for a time John Farlow clerked in a general store and later he turned his attention to farm enterprise in that county, where he achieved success and was influential in community affairs. He passed the closing years of his long and useful life at Beatrice, Nebraska, where he died at the age of eighty-two years and where his widow still resides, she having celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday anniversary in 1917.

William N. Farlow was about four years of age at the time of his parents removal to Iowa, where he was reared under the conditions and influences of frontier life and where he gained his early education in the common schools of the period, his more advanced education having been obtained in the Iowa Agricultural College, at Ames. For eight years he did successful service as a teacher in the schools of Taylor county, that state, and thereafter he held for two years the position of bookkeper in a leading bank at Bedford, the county seat. He then became cashier of a bank in the village of Conway, in the same county, and this incumbency he retained two years. In 1892 Mr. Farlow came to Nebraska and established his residence in Beatrice, where he engaged in the real-estate and abstract business and developed a prosperous enterprise. In 1909 he became one of the stockholders and the manager of the Beatrice Brick Company, and since 1912 he has owned the major portion of the stock in the business. The well equipped and effectively conducted manufacturing plant has a capacity for the output of thirty thousand brick daily, employment is given to an average force of twenty men and the high-grade products find ready demand in connection with building operations through Gage and adjoining counties, the business being one of substantial order.

In Taylor county, Iowa, January 12, 1882, recorded the marriage of Mr. Farlow to Miss Jennie Griffith, who was born and reared in

that county, a daughter of the late David and Adeline (Johnson) Griffith, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio and numbered among the sterling pioneers of the Hawkeye state. Mr. and Mrs. Farlow have three children, of whom Orville W., the eldest, is married and associated with his father in the brick business; Dale remains at the parental home, and is a graduate of the Beatrice high school; Vera, the only daughter, is the wife of Guy Magee, of Fremont, this state.

In politics Mr. Farlow is an advocate and supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and while residing in Taylor county, Iowa, he served four years as county recorder. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church, and their pleasant home is marked by distinctive culture and refinement. In 1917 Mr. Farlow erected as the family residence his present modern and attractive brick bungalow, which is situated at the corner of Eighth and Beaver streets, and is one of the beautiful homes of Beatrice. Mr. Farlow is a Knight-Templar Mason.

WILLIAM I. REED, a prosperous agriculturist of Gage county, was born in Menard county, Illinois, August 26, 1863, and is a son of Andrew Jackson Reed and Sarah Jane (Sheneman) Reed. Andrew Jackson Reed was born in Kentucky, in 1844, and when an infant was brought to Illinois by his widowed mother, who lost her husband when the child was six weeks old. He received his education in Illinois and later followed farming in that state until 1878, when he moved to Nodaway county, Missouri. Andrew J. Reed remained in Missouri until 1883, in which year he came to Gage county, Nebraska. Here he remained several years, and he then returned to Missouri, but later he removed to Topeka, Kansas, where he died at the home of one of his sons, at an advanced age. His wife, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, died at Pattonsburg, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Reed were the parents of five children: Charles L., who was formerly register of deeds of Gage county, Nebraska, is now living in Arkansas; Laura, the widow of Del Whitmarsh, resides at Blackwell, Oklahoma; William Iles is the subject of this sketch; Frank C. lives at Pattonsburg, Missouri; and Lulu is the wife of John Frazier, of Interior, Washington.

William Iles Reed was reared on a farm in Illinois and gained his early education in the public schools of Menard county, that state. When fifteen years old he went with his parents to Missouri, and with them he came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1883. Here he rented land in Sicily township, where he continued farming operations several years. He later bought eighty acres near Odell, and there he lived eight years. At the expiration of this period he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Section 22, Sicily township, where he now lives. At that time the farm was very well improved, but Mr. Reed has added to the improvements until he now has a home that is up-to-date in every particular, his house being lighted by electricity and heated by furnace, so that he and his family enjoy the comforts of a city home. Mr. Reed does a general farming business and has been very successful. He is a Republican and has held several township offices. He is now a member of the school board.

William Iles Reed wedded Miss Addie Clayton, daughter of Isaac R. Clayton, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Reed are the parents of six children — Ollie C., wife of Frank Gish, of Rockford township; Fred Lee, manager of the Farmers' Lumber Company of Wymore, this county; Ada V., wife of Christmas Roberts, of Wymore; Nora E., wife of Raymond Salisbury, who has recently established himself on a cattle ranch near Long Pine, Brown county; and Clarence M. and Ethel Lucile, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Reed are members of the Baptist church.

FRANK P. WICKHAM has built up in the city of Beatrice a very prosperous and vital enterprise in the handling of newspapers, magazines, stationery, etc., and his attractively equipped establishment is located at 116½ North Sixth street. He has the local agency for all metropolitan newspapers circulated in

the city and keeps in stock a fine line of stationery and various office supplies, besides presenting for the consideration of his patrons all of the current popular magazines and other periodicals. Mr. Wickham is a native son of Gage county and is a scion of a family that was founded in Nebraska in the territorial days.

Mr. Wickham was born in Blakely township, this county, on the 28th of April, 1871, and is a son of Horace M. and Isabelle (Alexander) Wickham, both natives of Ohio, the former having been born near Newark and the latter near Ironton, that state. Horace M. Wickham gained a wealth of frontier experience. From Ohio he removed, in 1845, to Holt county, Missouri, and from the latter state he went to Iowa in 1857. March 30, 1859, recorded his arrival in Gage county, Nebraska,— nearly a decade prior to the admission of the state to the Union. For eight years thereafter he was actively engaged in freighting operations across the plains and about 1866 he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Blakely township. On this pioneer farm he erected a little log house, and eventually he developed the place into one of the valuable and well improved farm properties of the county. He was twice married, and his first marriage was the first ceremony of the kind to be performed in Gage county,— May 8, 1859. His second marriage was to Mrs. Isabelle (Alexander) Beebe, and her first husband and their only son were killed in an Indian raid, in 1864. Of the first marriage was born also a daughter, Rua Beebe, and her husband, Mr. Conally, is a prosperous farmer in York county, Nebraska. Horace M. and Isabelle Wickham became the parents of two children, of whom the subject of this review is the younger; Clarissa became the wife of James Nelson and her death occurred at Beatrice, in April, 1907. The parents were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Wickham passed to the life eternal in the year 1873 and her husband was one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Gage county at the time of his death, in 1906.

Horace M. Wickham contributed his quota to the civic and industrial development and progress of Gage county, was a man of ability and sterling character and was influential in public affairs in the county. He was independent in politics and he served in various local offices of trust, including that of county supervisor, of which he continued the incumbent twelve years. His father, Thomas Wickham, was born and reared in Ohio and became a pioneer settler in Missouri, where he passed the remainder of his life.

Frank P. Wickham found the period of his childhood and youth compassed by the benignant influences of the home farm and his early education was acquired in the public schools of Gage county. He continued his active association with farm enterprise until 1907, when he removed to Beatrice. Here he conducted for the ensuing four years a billard and pool room, and he then sold the business and established his present thriving enterprise, to which he gives his undivided attention. He is the owner of his attractive residence property in Beatrice and also a well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in Sicily township. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the adjunct organization, the Daughters of Rebekah, and also with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Royal Neighbors, he and his family holding membership in the Christian church.

The year 1894 recorded the marriage of Mr. Wickham to Miss Martha Howard, who was born in Hancock county, Illinois, a daughter of Jasper N. Howard, who is a representative farmer in Thayer county, Nebraska, since 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Wickham have one child, Norva, who now holds a responsible position in the office of the Von Steen Lumber Company, and who is one of the popular factors in the social life of Beatrice.

CHARLES N. AUSTIN, who is the efficient and valued foreman of a department in the important manufacturing establishment of

the Dempster Company, at Beatrice, is a member of an honored pioneer family that was founded in Gage county nearly a decade before the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and adequate data concerning the family are given in the article dedicated, on other pages of this work, to his father, the late Homer B. Austin, who was one of the very first settlers in what is now the city of Beatrice.

Charles N. Austin was born at Austinburg, Ashtabula county, Ohio, on the 21st of May, 1855, and his early education was received principally at Augusta and Galesburg, Illinois. He was about two years old, however, when his parents, Homer B. and Mary A. (Dunbar) Austin came to the Nebraska Territory, in 1857, the father erecting a small cabin on the homestead claim which he entered near the present village of Pickrell and then turning his attention to breaking his land and developing a frontier farm, he having been one of the earliest settlers of the county. Later he returned with his family to Ohio and for a number of years prior to returning to the west the family home was maintained in Illinois.

Charles N. Austin has been continuously a resident of Gage county since 1890 and for six years he was here employed in a leading nursery. About 1895 he established his residence in Beatrice, and for virtually a score of years he has here been in the employ of the Dempster Company, with which representative industrial concern he now holds a responsible department foremanship, as previously intimated.

On the 7th of March, 1876, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Austin to Miss Stella Hall, who was born at Seneca, Missouri, near the Oklahoma line, and who is a daughter of William G. and Margaret R. (Roberts) Hall, the former of whom was born near the historic old city of Vincennes, Indiana, and the latter of whom was born in Missouri, from which state they came to Nebraska in 1887, here passing the remainder of their lives. John A. Hall, a brother of Mrs. Austin, now resides in the city of San Francisco and is in the civil service department of government service. He was a member of Company C, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, in the Spanish-American war, thereafter served two years in the regular army, in Alaska and Hawaii, and he has been a resident of San Francisco since the time of the great earthquake in that city.

Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Austin the following brief record is consistently entered: Harry A. is now a member of the American army preparing for service in the great world war and at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, he is with his command at Deming, New Mexico. He enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard on the 28th of July, 1910, and in his present company he holds the office of first lieutenant. He was married January 2, 1918, to Miss Selena Brown, of Crab Orchard, Johnson county. Louis is a member of the class of 1919 in the Beatrice high school; Mary R. likewise is attending the public schools of Beatrice.

In politics Mr. Austin is aligned staunchly in the ranks of the Republican party, and he has been actively affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since May 28, 1876. He has been specially active in the affairs of this admirable fraternal order and is past grand of his lodge. He is identified also with the Woodmen of the World. He has served twenty-two years as a member of the volunteer fire department of Beatrice and he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN SHALLA.— One of the substantial agriculturists of Gage county is John Shalla, owner of an excellent farm of four hundred acres in Section 3, Paddock township. A native of Iowa, he was born in Johnson county, near Iowa City, on December 20, 1864. His parents, Vencil and Barbara (Yarosh) Shalla were born in Bohemia where their marriage was solemnized, and where they made their home until 1864, when they sought a home in the United States, settling in Iowa. Soon afterward Mr. Shalla bought forty acres of land near Richmond in Washington county and engaged in farming, where he remained until 1878, when he came to Gage county,

Nebraska and took a homestead in Paddock township, south of the site of the present village of Odell. He also took one hundred and twenty acres as a homestead for his son John, who was then only fourteen years of age. Two years later Mr. Shalla sold his land and bought two hundred acres in Sections 3 and 10, Paddock township, the land being wholly unimproved. To the improvement and cultivation of this land Mr. Shalla gave his full time and attention until he retired from the farm to make his home in Odell, where he pased away in 1912 at the age of seventy-four years. His widow still resides in Odell and is now (1918) in her seventy-second year. They were among the first families on the Otoe Indian reservation and contributed their share toward transforming the wild land to the beautiful farms and homes we see to-day. Mr. and Mrs. Shalla were members of the Catholic church. They reared a family of eight children as follows: Anna, born in Bohemia, is the wife of Joseph Pecka, a farmer in Marshall county Kansas; John is the immediate subject of this record; Joseph is a farmer in Gage county; Mary is the wife of Tony Hirmon, of Wymore, this county; Emma is the wife of Frank Hirmon, of Odell; Fannie is the wife of Charles Costel, of Odell; Nettie is the wife of Henry Monsterman, of Gage county; Tena is the wife of Harry Meyer, residing near Lanham; and two children died in infancy, one in Washington county, Iowa, and one in Gage county.

John Shalla, the eldest son of this pioneer family, was a lad of fourteen when the home was established in Nebraska. Reared on the farm and under the pioneer conditions, he learned the lessons of industry, and when a young man of twenty-one years he began farming for himself. The first three years he spent in Kansas, and he then returned to Paddock township and purchased an improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Here he has been successful in his farm enterprise, as is attested by the fact that he is now the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land in Section 3. He follows the best methods of planting and harvesting, and his is one of the best improved tracts of land in the township. Mr. Shalla completed the preparations for a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Fannie Hirmon, a native of Washington county, Iowa. They have four children: Mary is the wife of John Cacek, a farmer of Paddock township; and John W., Emma and Edward remain at the parental home.

Mr. Shalla has been a member of the district school board for the past eight years. He is a very progressive, up-to-date farmer, and any worthy cause always has his hearty endorsement.

RICHARD ROSSITER. — In according recognition to the early pioneer settlers of Gage county mention should be made in this publication of Richard Rossiter, who came with his family to Nebraska in the early territorial days. Mr. Rossiter was born in Somersetshire, England, where he married Mary Green and where two of their children were born. About 1856 he came with his family to America and settled in Illinois, where he obtained employment on a dairy farm. In the spring of 1862 he moved with his family to Nebraska and obtained a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres of virgin prairie land in Gage county, eight miles northwest of Beatrice, which city at that time was unmarked by a single building. On this land he built a log cabin of the true pioneer type, with a dirt floor, and then turned himself vigorously to reclaiming his land to cultivation. He was at the time one of the very few men in the county owning a team of horses, and he always prided himself thereafter upon keeping good horses. A man of strong individuality, sterling character, and mature judgment, he made good use of the opportunities here presented, and at the time of his death he was the owner of a valuable landed estate of more than seven hundred acres, comprising four well improved farms in Gage county. Mr. Rossiter had never attended school a day in his life, but his mental alertness enabled him in large measure to overcome this youthful handicap, and he was known as a man of superior business judgment and acumen. In

MRS. RICHARD ROSSITER

RICHARD ROSSITER

the early days he raised live stock, and his children assisted in herding the cattle on the plains, there having been at the time no restrictions on the use of government land. This strong and worthy pioneer continued his residence in Gage county until his death, which occurred January 7, 1902, and he was at the time eighty-three years of age. His widow, who remains on the old homestead, celebrated the ninety-third anniversary of her birth in October, 1917. She is not only one of the revered but undoubtedly also one of the most venerable pioneer women of this county, which she has seen developed from a frontier wild to its present state of prosperity.

Mr. and Mrs. Rossiter became the parents of seven children, of whom the following brief data are given: Charles is a prospector and miner in British Columbia; Frances is the wife of F. E. Quackenbush, of Keota, Colorado; Anna is the wife of Prather Dolan, a farmer living near Hoag, Gage county; Sarah is the widow of George M. Morey and resides at Pleasanton, Iowa; Edgar is a prosperous farmer in Gage county, and concerning him a record appears elsewhere in this volume; and Hattie and Sidney reside with their widowed mother on the old homestead in Gage county. Mrs. Rossiter's maiden name was Mary Green and she, like her husband, was born in Somersetshire, England.

JOHN W. EHMEN was born and reared on the farm which is now the stage of his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower, and he is the fortunate owner of this valuable and well improved landed estate of two hundred acres, in Section 27, Hanover township. He was born February 10, 1882, and is a son of William and Emke (Johnson) Ehmen, of whom specific mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of their son Henry W. In the same connection are given portraits of the parents, the insertion of the same being made as a filial tribute on the part of John W. Ehmen.

John W. Ehmen has from his boyhood been associated with the activities of the farm of which he is now the owner and his early education was acquired in the public schools of Hanover township. He takes loyal interest in all things pertaining to the communal welfare, has given effective service as road overseer, is a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church.

In 1905 Mr. Ehmen wedded Miss Emke Busboom, who was born in the state of Kansas and whose father, John Busboom, is now a prosperous farmer of Gage county, in Filley township. Mr. and Mrs. Ehmen have five children, — William, John, Emke, Tida and Henry.

EARL C. JEWELL.— True versatility, as well as progressive and well directed business policies, has been manifested by Mr. Jewell in his independent career as a representative of farm enterprise in his native county. In Sections 19 and 20, Grant township, he is now the owner of a well improved landed estate of two hundred acres. In 1902 he began raising pure-bred Duroc-Jersey swine, and his discrimination and good judgment have brought him to the front as one of the most successful exponents of this line of farm enterprise in this section of Nebraska. Further interest attaches to his career by reason of his being a scion of a family that has given honored and influential pioneers to Gage county and that was founded in America in the colonial period of our national history, the Jewell lineage tracing back to staunch English origin.

On his father's old homestead farm in Grant township, this county, Mr. Jewell was born July 29, 1886, and he is the youngest of the four children of George W. and Martha (Carpenter) Jewell. William, firstborn of the children, died in infancy and the second, to whom was given the same name, William, now owns and resides upon the old home farm; Bertha is the wife of William McJunkin, of Dewitt, Saline county.

George W. Jewell was born in Ohio and was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death, which occurred November 21, 1910. Staunchly patriotic, when the Civil war was precipitated upon the nation he went forth

as a loyal young soldier of the Union, his service having been as a member of Company E, Second Illinois Cavalry, with which gallant command he lived up to the full tension of the conflict through which the integrity of the Union was preserved. After the war he continued his residence in Grundy county, Illinois, until 1870, when, accompanied by his wife and their one child, he drove overland with team and wagon to Gage county, Nebraska. He became one of the pioneer settlers of Grant township and developed one of the fine farms of that part of the county, his old homestead being eligibly situated near the village of Dewitt. He was a Republican in politics and was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic. His cherished and devoted wife was likewise born in Ohio and she was about fifty-two years of age at the time of her death, in 1902, both having been earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Earl C. Jewell was reared on the old homestead farm and his early educational advantages were those afforded in the public schools of Grant township. He continued to be associated with his father in farm industry until the death of the latter and about two years later, in 1912, he purchased his present farm, from his uncle, Samuel V. Jewell, another of the sterling pioneers of the county. He has since made numerous improvements on the place, which is three-fourths of a mile east of Dewitt, Saline county, and here, in connection with diversified agriculture, he has become specially prominent and succesful in the raising of fine live stock and poultry. On his exhibits of Barred Rock poultry he has won ribbons at poultry shows held in the Nebraska cities of Lincoln, Grand Island, Hastings, Omaha and Kearney, as well as at St. Joseph, Missouri, and in 1917 he made a splendid exhibit at the great poultry show in the city of Chicago. Among the prizes he has won on poultry and Duroc-Jersey swine may be noted five silver cups and a five-piece silver tea set. His interest in poultry-breeding has been unwavering since his boyhood days, he has made a close and careful study of the same, uses the best of modern facilities and scientific methods in his poultry enterprise, and his success in the same has been of unequivocal order. As a progressive and liberal citizen he takes active interest in public affairs, especially those of a local order, and is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Dewitt and they are popular factors in the social activities of the community.

September 21, 1907, recorded the marriage of Mr. Jewell to Miss Clara Foster, who was born at Dewitt, Saline county, and is a daughter of William H. and Margaret (Reinwald) Foster. Mr. Foster was born and reared in Illinois and in the pioneer days came with his widowed mother and her three other children to Saline county, Nebraska, where he has since maintained his home, he and his wife being now residents of Dewitt. Mrs. Foster was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and there her marriage was solemnized May 24, 1882, Mrs. Jewell being the eldest of the three children. Mr. and Mrs. Jewell have two children,—Lucille, who was born June 25, 1908, and Vivian, who was born July 28, 1915.

JOHN LENERS has been a resident of Gage county since 1878 and though his financial resources were most limited at the time of his immigration from Illinois to Nebraska he had the most generous measure of energy, ambition, and self-reliance, so that he has achieved large and worthy success through his association with farm enterprise in this county, where he is now the owner of a valuable farm estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Logan and Filley township, his attractive homestead, improved with handsome buildings erected by him, being situated in Section 1, Logan township.

Mr. Leners was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, November 21, 1853, and is a son of Renken and Etta Leners, who came to America in 1858 and settled in Adams county, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives and where the father

became a prosperous farmer. Both were earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

John Leners was five years of age at the time of the family immigration to the United States and was reared and educated in Adams county, Illinois. There he continued to be associated with farm industry until 1878, when, at the age of twenty-four years, he came to Gage county, in company with his brother Renken. For a few years he here carried on farm activities on rented land, and the splendid advancement which he has made in the intervening years is shown significantly in his ownership of one of the model farm estates of the county. Here he gives his attention to diversified agriculture and to the raising of excellent types of live stock. In the early days Mr. Leners had his full quota of struggle in overcoming obstacles and adverse conditions, over which he has triumphed, and in contradistinction to the high prices paid for food products at the present period of world warfare, it is interesting to note that in the pioneer days Mr. Leners sold his corn for ten cents a bushel and hogs at less than two dollars per hundredweight. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church.

In Adams county, Illinois, in 1874, Mr. Leners wedded Miss Marie Schuster, who was born in Germany, a daughters of Mene Schuster, her parents having been pioneers in Gage county, where they settled in 1865, about two years prior to the admission of Nebraska to the Union. Mr. and Mrs. Leners became the parents of a fine family of twelve children, of whom the firstborn, Etta, met a tragic death, she having been killed by lighting when sixteen years of age; Grace is the wife of J. G. Carstens, of Hanover township; Renken J. is a farmer in Holt township; Menne died at the age of twenty-eight years; Henry is a farmer in Filley township; Amanda died at the age of eight; Annie is the wife of Menne Zimmerman, of Hanover township; Etta (second of the name) is the wife of M. Eckerly, of Beatrice; Johanna is the wife of George Schmidt, of Hooker township; and Amanda, Ortman and Marie remain at the parental home.

JOHN SINGLETON. — No man living in Gage county has the honor of being an earlier settler on what was once the Otoe Indian reservation than John Singleton, who is now living retired in the village of Odell. He also has the distinction of being a son of parents who were among the early families in a new country. He was the first white child born in Fremont county, Iowa, where his birth occurred October 25, 1842. He is the son of Andrew Jackson Singleton and Elizabeth (Hanna) Singleton, the former born in Kentucky and the latter in Tennessee.

Andrew J. Singleton married in Indiana and in 1841 he and his wife moved to Fremont county, Iowa, where they were among the first settlers. Mr. Singleton engaged in farming and followed that vocation throughout his life.

John Singleton spent his boyhood days on the Iowa farm and was married in that state. In 1873 he came to Nebraska and took squatter's claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land in the Otoe Indian reservation, this land being later included in what is now Glenwood township, Gage county. His first house was built of logs and was fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions. Here he and his wife lived for more than three years. Mr. Singleton eventually built a good frame house, and he and his wife remained on the farm until 1892, when they moved to Odell. Up to about ten years ago Mr. Singleton continued his active association with farm enterprise but since that time he has lived a retired life. Mr. Singleton and his brother-in-law were the first two settlers in Glenwood township, and at that time there were but three houses between Mr. Singleton's place and the town of Beatrice. Mrs. Singleton has also a very interesting pioneer record. She was Miss Sarah F. Good and was born May 12, 1844, at Fort Coffey, on the Arkansas river, in the Indian Territory. Her father, Rev. W. H. Good, was a Methodist minister connected with the Indianapolis conference and was sent as missionary to the

Indians: he located in Indian Territory in 1843. Later he returned to Indiana, whence he was sent as a misionary to the Indians in Nebraska. His last days were spent in Indiana. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Pearson, was born in Indiana, and she was a resident of her native state at the time of her death.

Mr. and Mrs. Singleton were married in Fremont county, Iowa, and she accompanied her husband to Gage county, Nebraska, where she shared his pioneer experiences. They became the parents of five children: Maggie is the wife of E. T. Joy, of University Place, Nebraska; Bessie is the wife of P. B. Laird, of Tabor, Iowa; Frances is the wife of T. H. Ellis, of Eugene, Oregon; William resides at Fairbury, Nebraska; and Eleanor is the wife of Anton Beza, a merchant at Odell, Gage county.

Mr. Singleton and his wife are enjoying the evening of life in a comfortable home in Odell. He is a man of distinguished bearing, typical of the southern reared gentleman. Mr. Singleton's grandfather was a slave-holder in Missouri in the early days. Mr. Singleton is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

CHRIST J. MEINTS, whose well improved homestead farm is situated in Section 26, Hanover township, has by his own ability and energy achieved large success in connection with farm enterprise in this county and, now venerable in years, he is living virtually retired from the arduous labors which so long marked his career.

Mr. Meints was born in East Friesland, province of Hanover, Germany, on the 28th of December, 1834, and there he was reared and educated. In the same province was solemnized his marriage to Miss Rika Dorn, and they came to America in 1865, arriving at Golden, Illinois, two weeks prior to the assassination of President Lincoln. In his native land Mr. Meints had learned the carpenter's trade and this he followed after establishing his home in Illinois, besides which he did expert service in brick-laying and plastering in that state until 1883, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, which state he had previously visited, this action having been prompted by a request made to him by former residents of Illinois who wished him to do some building work for them. He finally became so favorably impressed that he decided to establish his home in the county — an action that he has never regreted. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in Section 26, Hanover township, where he has since maintained his home, and his ability as a carpenter is shown in the substantial and attractive type of the buildings which he has erected on his home farm. He brought to bear marked energy and business sagacity in his activities as a farmer and eventually accumulated a valuable estate of five hundred and sixty acres, a considerable portion of which he retains, the remainder having been sold to his sons. His devoted wife passed to eternal rest in 1907, a devout member of the Lutheran church, as is he also. Of their children the eldest is Henry, a prosperous farmer in Logan township; Maggie is the wife of Broer Gronewold, of Dawson county; John was a resident of Holt township at the time of his death; Bruno is a successful farmer in Logan township; Christina is the wife of Ben Aden, of Dawson county; Heye is a substantial farmer in Holt township; Addie is the wife of Louis Stevens, of Hanover township.

Though he has passed the age of four score years Mr. Meints is hale and active and continues to find occasion for practical service about his farm, as may be inferred when it is noted that recently he used a trowel actively and effectively in the construction of a cement floor in one of the buildings on his farm. His son-in-law, Louis Stevens, has the active management of the farm and is more specifically mentioned in appending paragraphs.

Louis Stevens was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, January 29, 1878, and has been a resident of Gage county since 1895. In 1901 was solemnized his marriage to Miss Addie Meints, and they have seven children —

Grace, Mabel, Christ, Elmer, John, Henry, and Emma.

Mr. Stevens is a progressive exponent of farm enterprise, is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are active communicants of the Lutheran church.

JOHN H. ZIMMERMAN. — Eligibly situated in Section 22, Blakely township, is the excellent farm which is being successfully operated by Mr. Zimmerman and that is a part of the estate of his honored father, the late John A. Zimmerman, who was one of the sterling pioneers of Gage county.

John H. Zimmerman was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Blakely township, this county, April 3, 1883, and is the eldest of the children of John A. and Helen (Riesen) Zimmerman, brief record concerning the other children being here given: Mary is the wife of Henry vonSteen, of Blakely township; Anna is the wife of Dr. H. G. Penner, a representative physician and surgeon of Plymouth, Jefferson county; John H. is farming the old homestead place, where also remain the widowed mother and the daughters, Helen and Alice; Louis E., the youngest of the number, died in infancy.

John A. Zimmerman was born near the city of Dantzic, western Prussia, on the 6th of September, 1857, and he came to the United States in the summer of 1876. He first located at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, but in the following year, in company with his parents, he became a member of the staunch Mennonite colony that established residence in Gage county, Nebraska. He and his father obtained land in Sections 29 and 30, Blakely township, and with the passing years he gained place as one of the substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of the county. He was a citizen of upright character and splendid energy, so that he achieved large and worthy success, the while he commanded the confidence of all who knew him. He was the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred and twenty-five acres at the time of his death, which occurred July 10, 1914, and was an earnest member of the Mennonite church, as is also his widow, she likewise having been born near Dantzic, Germany, and the date of her nativity having been August 24, 1861.

John H. Zimmerman acquired his earlier education in the district schools and supplemented this by attending the public schools in the city of Beatrice. He has traveled through various states of the west and south but his observations have only caused him to be the more appreciative of his native county and its attractions and advantages, so that after his marriage, in 1907, he here initiated his independent career as a farmer and stock-grower, in which field of industrial enterprise he is fully upholding the high prestige of the family name. He is a member of the school board of his district, is a Republican in politics, and is an alert and progressive citizen and farmer of the younger generation in his native county.

November 21, 1907, recorded the marriage of Mr. Zimmerman to Miss Marie Penner, who was born and reared in this county and is a daughter of Gerhard and Anna (Froese) Penner, sterling pioneer citizens who now maintain their home in the city of Beatrice. Mrs. Zimmerman was graduated in the Beatrice high school and prior to her marriage had been a successful and popular teacher in the district schools of her native county. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman have three children — Carl H., Robert G., and Hugo J.

ALBERT C. PFEFFERMANN, a farmer of Lincoln township, was born January 7, 1873, in Livingston county, Illinois, and he is a son of Stormeus and Sarah T. (Thomas) Pfeffermann.

Stormeus Pfeffermann was born in Germany, in December, 1833. He was a tailor by trade and before coming to America worked at his trade in Germany. In 1862 Mr. Pfeffermann came to the United States and settled in Livingston county, Illinois, but within a short time thereafter he enlisted in the defense of the Union in the Civil war. He continued in service until the close of the war, and upon his return to Illinois he engaged in farming. He there continued his farm enter-

prise until 1892, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and bought three hundred and twenty acres of land in Lincoln township, besides which he became the owner of an additional tract of land near Diller, Jefferson county. For this land Mr. Pfeffermann paid from ten to fourteen dollars an acre. During the intervening years, between 1892 and 1918, this land has increased in value more than ten times its cost at time of purchase, and Mr. Pfeffermann is still the owner of about six hundred and forty acres.

Albert C. Pfeffermann was educated in the public schools of Illinois. As a young man he applied himself to farm work in that state until 1892, when he came with his parents to Nebraska. In 1894 Albert C. and his brother, Edward, began farming on the home place, in Lincoln township. They were thus associated one year and Albert C. Pfeffermann then returned to Illinois. In his native state he remained only a short time, however, and he then came again to Nebraska and to the home place upon which he now resides.

On March 9, 1898, Albert C. Pfeffermann was united in marriage to Ada Seabert, of Livingston county, Illinois, and to them have been born five children — Elma, Floyd, Dorothy, Sadie, and Bernetta.

Mr. Pfeffermann is a Republican in politics and at one time he was assessor of Lincoln township. He was one of the organizers of the Ellis State Bank, in 1907, and is now vice-president of that institution. He is also a stockholder and director of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Ellis.

THOMAS C. HAGERMAN came to Gage county forty years ago and has here won substantial success through his long and energetic association with agricultural and live-stock industry, of which he has been a representative exponent in Filley township, where he owns a well improved and valuable landed estate of eleven hundred and twenty-five acres — one of the best farm properties in this part of the county. Since 1910 he has lived retired in the village of Filley, where he owns an attractive and modern residence property, the fine modern house having been erected by him at the time when he left the farm.

Mr. Hagerman was born in Washington county, Maryland, January 7, 1851, and is a son of William A. and Hettie (Mickley) Hagerman, both natives of Pennsylvania, the latter having been born in Adams county, near the city of Gettysburg. The father was a brickmaker by vocation in earlier years but eventually became one of the substantial farmers of Maryland, where both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives. Thomas C. Hagerman was reared on the old home farm in Maryland and is indebted to the public schools of his native county for his early educational discipline. In 1878, as a young man of twenty-seven years, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in Filley township. Within a short time thereafter he returned to Maryland, but in 1883 he came again to Gage county, where he began the development and improvement of his farm. A few years later he purchased an adjoining tract of three hundred and twenty acres, and after living on this place a few years he returned to his original farm, in order to be in the Filley school district and permit his children to attend the village schools. He continued his vigorous and successful operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower until his retirement to the village of Filley, as previously noted, and he gave special attention to the raising of high-grade swine, in which department of farm enterprise he was particularly successful.

In the year 1872 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hagerman to Miss Mary Hutzell, who likewise was born and reared in Maryland, and concerning the children of this union the following record is given. Nannie is the wife of J. J. Williamson and they reside near Merriman, South Dakota; Alice became the wife of E. W. Starlin, and is now deceased; Ada is the wife of Earl Norcross, of Filley; Luther resides upon and has charge of the old home farm, the maiden name of his wife having been Eva Clark; and W. C., who married Joyce Clark, resides on one of his father's farms.

Mr. Hagerman, a man of sterling character and marked ability, has shown distinctive loyalty and public spirit as a citizen, is a Republican in politics and is serving, in 1917-1918, as mayor of the village of Filley, besides which he held for twelve years the position of member of the school board. Both he and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN G. CARSTENS, whose excellent farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, is in Section 14, Hanover township, is a progressive exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry and is one of the representative citizens of his community. He was born in Adams county, Illinois, September 12, 1873, and is a son of George and Juliana (Bauer) Carstens, both of whom were born in Germany — the former in the year 1828 and the latter on the 22d of December, 1841. Both passed the closing years of their lives in Gage county, Nebraska, where the father's death occurred in October, 1909, and that of the mother on the 9th of February, 1917. George Carstens came to the United States in the year 1857 and settled in Illinois. After having there been employed for a time as a farm hand he purchased a small farm in Adams county, and he continued his residence in Illinois until 1890, when he came with his family to Nebraska and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Gage county. He made this one of the fine farm properties of Hanover township and continued to be associated with its management until the time of his death. He was a Democrat in his political adherency and both he and his wife were communicants of the Lutheran church. Of their eight children all are living except one: Minnie is the wife of George Ortgiesen, a farmer in Franklin county, this state; Richard is now a resident of Madison county; Herman is engaged in farming three and one-half miles east of Beatrice; John G., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Christopher resides on his farm in Saline county; Paul lives on his father's old homestead farm and his sister Mary remains with him.

John G. Carstens acquired his youthful education in the public schools of Illinois and was sixteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. On the old home place in Hanover township he continued to assist his father in the operation of the farm until he was twenty-four years of age, when he began his independent operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower, a field of industrial enterprise in which his success has been on a parity with the energy and progressiveness that have marked his course.

In the year 1899 Mr. Carstens wedded Miss Maggie Leners, who was born and reared in this county and whose parents still reside on their old home farm, in Logan township. Mrs. Carstens is a daughter of John Leners, who was born in Germany and who came to Gage county in the '70s, becoming one of the pioneer settlers in Logan township. Mr. and Mrs. Carstens have seven children, all of whom still remain members of the gracious home circle, namely: Juliana, Marie, George, John, William, Ranken, and Anna.

A loyal supporter of measures and movements advanced for the general good of the community, Mr. Carstens maintains an independent attitude in politics, and he has been called upon to serve as township assessor, as well as a member of the school board of his district. He has made many excellent improvements on his farm, including the erection of an attractive house of modern design and appointments, and also a barn that meets the requirements of an up-to-date farm, this latter building having been erected in 1915.

HARM M. DEBUHR. — From East Friesland, a picturesque district in the extreme northwestern angle of the province of Hanover, Germany, have come an appreciable number of well known and representative citizens of Gage county, both in the present and earlier generations. In that district of Germany Harm M. DeBuhr was born June 12, 1865, and he was ten years of age at the time of the family immigration to America. The generous measure of his achievement is demonstrated in his ownership of a fine landed estate of

four hundred and twenty acres in Gage county, and his attractive homestead farm is situated in Section 22, Hanover township. He is a son of Menne J. and Jennie (Harms) DeBuhr, both natives of Germany, where the latter passed her entire life. Menne DeBuhr was born December 30, 1822, and was a resident of the state of Illinois at the time of his death, in 1887. After the death of his wife he continued to be identified with business enterprise in East Friesland until 1875, when he came with his children to the United States and established a home in Champaign county, Illinois, in which state he passed the remainder of his life, he having been a wagonmaker by trade. Of the five children three are living, the subject of this sketch being the youngest; Rixty is the wife of George E. Zimmerman, of Hanover township, who is individually mentioned on other pages; and Antye is the wife of Martin Hendricks, a farmer in Illinois. The parents were lifelong members of the Lutheran church.

Harm M. DeBuhr gained his rudimentary education in his native land and was ten years old when he accompanied his father to America, his educational training having been completed in the public schools of Illinois. In that state he continued his association with farm enterprise until 1885, when he came to Nebraska and established his home in Gage county. Here he farmed on rented land for nine years, and he then purchased eighty acres in Hanover township, after having accumulated sufficient money to partially pay for the same. Later he sold this property and purchased his present homestead place, which then comprised one hundred and sixty acres and to which he has gradually added until he now owns a valuable farm estate of four hundred and twenty acres in Hanover township. Mr. DeBuhr has erected good farm buildings on his homestead, the small house that was on the place when he purchased the property having been supplanted by a commodious and attractive modern residence, and scrupulous care having been given to keeping the farm property up to the best standard throughout. While thus furthering through well directed industry and enterprise his personal advancement, Mr. DeBuhn has at all times been mindful of his civic responsibilities and has given his coöperation in the furtherance of those things that have tended to conserve the general wellbeing and progress of the community. He is independent in politics, is now serving as a member of the school board of his district, has been road overseer in his precinct and his high place in popular confidence and esteem is indicated by his being the incumbent, in 1917-1918, of the office of township treasurer. He is a vigorous and successful exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry and is essentially one of the representative citizens of Hanover township. He and his wife are zealous communicants of the Lutheran church.

In 1889 Mr. DeBuhr wedded Miss Minnie Ehman, whose father, the late William Ehman, was numbered among the honored pioneers of Gage county, adequate data concerning the family being given on other pages, in the record concerning Henry W. Ehman, a brother of Mrs. DeBuhr. In the concluding paragraph of this article is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. DeBuhr:

Menne, who is a prosperous farmer in Hanover township, married Miss Katie Walken, and they have two children, Harm and Trinty; William, a representative farmer of the younger generation in Hanover township, wedded Johannah Zimmerman; John is a farmer in Hanover township and the maiden name of his wife was Bena Huls; Henry, Amka, Jergen, Bernhard, Trinty, and Martin remain at the parental home.

FRANK W. MUMFORD was born and reared on the fine old homestead farm to the management of which he is now giving his effective attention, the same comprising three hundred and twenty acres, in Section 4, Logan township, in which township he individually owns also eighty acres aside from the undivided family estate. He is a scion of a sterling pioneer family that was founded in Gage county prior to the admission of Nebraska to state-

hood, and to his father, John B. Mumford, a merited tribute is paid in a review on other pages of this work.

Frank W. Mumford was born August 17, 1868, and was reared under the conditions that marked the early pioneer era in Gage county history. He profited by the advantages of the district schools of the locality and period, and he has become one of the representative exponents of agricultural and live-stock industry in his native township, besides which he has been for a score of years successfully identified with the buying and shipping of live stock, the specific executive management of this enterprise being vested in his partner, who maintains headquarters in the village of Pickrell. In the early days Mr. Mumford herded cattle on the open prairies, his activities in this line having been initiated when he was a boy and having continued about six years, during which he moved the cattle about over a radius of many miles. He has retained the deepest interest in fine live stock in the varied lines and he and his cousin, George L., are associated in the ownership of the fine pacing stallion, "Budweiser," nine years old (1918), sired by Roy Norval and the dam by Dr. Vincent. Mr. Mumford purchased this animal in 1913, from a man named Bud Weiser, at Pickrell, the stallion having at the time been in service on a rural mail route. The new owners put the stallion into training and in the first year, in turf competitions, he won eight out of the twelve races in which he was entered. In the season of 1917, at Springfield, Illinois, he made a record of 2:07¼.

Mr. Mumford is a progressive and up-to-date farmer, is a Democrat in politics, served four years as assessor of Logan township, and for twenty years as school director of his district.

December 18, 1895, Mr. Mumford wedded Miss Bertha Hansbearry, who was born in Nemaha county, this state, and they have three children — Luther Warren, Frank Morris, and John William Walter. The sons are attending, in 1918, the public schools in the city of Beatrice.

FRED D. VAN LIEW, who owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 13, Rockford township, was born in Jerseyville, Illinois, July 17, 1871. He is a son of Fred and Elizabeth (Stout) Van Liew. His paternal grandparents were Jeremiah and Becky Van Liew, who became residents of Jerseyville, Illinois, when the father of our subject was about seventeen years of age. There he grew to manhood and there he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1879, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased two hundred acres of land one mile south of Beatrice, in Riverside township. Nine years later he moved to Beatrice, where he resided until his death, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife also passed away in Beatrice, when about the same age as was her husband at the time of his death. They became the parents of seven children, three of whom died in childhood. The four surviving children are John, of Pawnee county, Nebraska; Mrs. J. B. Smith, of Platte City, Missouri; Fred D., subject of this review; and Frank, of Beatrice, this county.

Fred D. Van Liew came to Gage county when a lad of seven years. Pioneer conditions were still in evidence on every hand. Beatrice, the county seat, was only a small village. He attended school in Beatrice and when a young man worked by the month on a farm. Then for four years he was employed in the mechanical department of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. Five years ago he purchased his present farm, to the improvement and cultivation of which he is devoting his energies with good success.

Mr. Van Liew chose as a wife and helpmeet Miss Jennie Nemec, a native of Pawnee county, Nebraska, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nemec, who still reside in that county. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Van Liem has been blessed with two children whose names are Frances and William. The parents are members of the Baptist church.

Mr. Van Liew has witnessed many changes in Gage county since he came here as a boy. Though he was elsewhere for a few years, he

has returned to devote his time to farming and to rear his children in the county where his own boyhood days were passed.

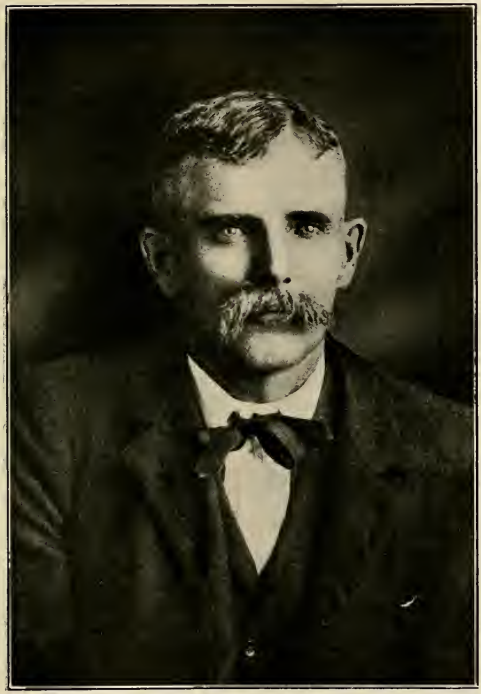
JOHN L. WILSON is an honored and representative citizen whose memory and experience touch the pioneer conditions and experiences of Gage county history, and he resides on his fine homestead farm, in Section 33, Hanover township.

John Leander Wilson was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, December 24, 1846, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Pethoud) Wilson, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. As a young man John Wilson followed the trade of moulder but eventually he became associated with agricultural industry in Ohio, where he remained until 1858, when he came with his family to Nebraska Territory and settled in Gage county, as one of the earliest pioneers of what is now Logan township. In Section 4, that township, he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he obtained by buying a land warrant issued by the government to a soldier who had served in the Mexican war. John Wilson and his family lived up to the full tension of frontier life and eventually he effected the reclamation and improvement of his pioneer farm, which is now owned by the subject of this review. The original family domicile was a primitive log house, and this was utilized several years, a more pretentious dwelling being then provided. John Wilson here continued to reside until his death, October 26, 1867, the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and his widow attained to venerable age, her death having occurred June 22, 1892, both having been earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church. This revered pioneer couple became the parents of twelve children: Mary, who became the wife of Frederick Hansen, died in 1916, her home having been in the state of Iowa; Eliza is the widow of Louis Graves and lives in Colorado; John L., immediate subject of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Alexander is a resident of Colorado and Thomas of Oregon; Sarah, whose death occurred in 1907, in Missouri, was the wife of Oliver Hansen; Maria, the wife of George Gates, died in 1876; Francis M. was a resident of Brown, Nemaha county, Nebraska, at the time of his death; Andrew J. is a resident of Clay Center, Kansas; James I. maintains his home at Goldfield, Colorado; Joseph died in Gage county, in June, 1917, aged fifty-two years; Rebecca is the wife of James William Pell and they reside in the state of Iowa.

John L. Wilson was a youth of eleven years at the time of the family removal to the wilds of Nebraska Territory and was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer farm in Gage county, the while he attended the primitive schools of Gage county when opportunity offered. The years 1877 and 1878 he passed in freighting operations in localities farther to the west, and upon his return to Gage county he purchased eighty acres of land in Section 33, Hanover township, where he has since maintained his residence and where he has developed one of the well improved farm estates of the county, as a successful agriculturist and stock-grower. His home farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres and he owns also the old homestead farm of his father, in Logan township, this place, likewise having an area of one hundred and sixty acres.

In the year 1883 Mr. Wilson married Miss Lucy Wilson, who was born in Ohio and is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Steine) Wilson, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Virginia. From Ohio the parents of Mrs. John L. Wilson removed to Iowa, as pioneers of that state, and in 1881 they came to Gage county and settled in Rockford township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson became the parents of five children, of whom two died in early childhood, the surviving children, Lee, Glenn, and Neola, remaining at the parental home and being representatives of the third generation of the Wilson family in this county.

Mr. Wilson, though he has passed the span of three score years and ten, is still vigorous



JOHN L. WILSON

and in the best of health, has no desire to lay aside the labors and responsibilities incidental to the management of his farm, and continues to take vital interest in community affairs. In politics he is an independent Democrat, and in the past he has given effective service as a member of the county board of supervisors, as well as the board of trustees of Hanover township. After serving forty years as a member of the school board of his district he relinquished the office, by refusing again to appear as a candidate for the same. There are few citizens of Gage county who have lived as great a number of years within its borders as has Mr. Wilson, and he has contributed his full quota to civic and industrial progress and prosperity in this now favored section of the state. He is one of very few remaining territorial pioneers of the county, is well known and has a host of friends.

CHARLES W. KING. — The late Charles Willis King was born in Wayne county, Michigan, on the 1st of December, 1824, and was a son of C. F. and Harriet (Northrup) King. He attended the common schools of Michigan and was a boy when he accompanied his parents to Illinois, the family home being established in Rock Island. In Illinois Mr. King was reared to manhood, and there was solemnized his marriage to Miss Candace Stansell, a daughter of James and Catherine (Brittain) Stansell, natives of Michigan, where Mrs. King was born July 31, 1849.

Charles Willis King farmed in Illinois until 1876, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and located on one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Filley township. This property he developed into a productive farm and here he and his wife lived for many years. They finally sold the farm and bought land near Beatrice, the county seat. There they remained until nine years ago, when Mr. King sold the property and moved to Beatrice, where he established his home at 1015 Market street. He was in very poor health at the time, as he was afflicted with asthma. He made several trips to California and other places in the west in search of health. While on one of these trips Mr. King purchased some land in Montana, and this his widow still owns. In the summer of 1915, while attending to his affairs in Montana, Mr. King's health became worse and he returned to Beatrice, where he died on December 12th of that year.

In early life Mr. King was a member of the Methodist church, but during the latter years of his life he belonged to no church organization, though he always held family prayers in his home and was a great reader of his Bible. He was a good Christian man and was very highly respected in the community in which he lived.

Mr. and Mrs. King became the parents of twelve children: Chester F. resides in Filley, this county; Bertha died at the age of nine years; Jesse J. is a farmer in Filley township; Lemuel resides in Beatrice; Charles is a farmer in Filley township; Fred is in Montana; Hattie is the wife of Thomas Armstrong, of Beatrice; Myrtle is the wife of Oscar Wemm, of Beatrice; Edward is a farmer in Sherman township; Albert resides in Beatrice; Gertrude died at the age of three years; and Daisy died at the age of two years.

Mrs. Charles W. King has continued to make her home in Beatrice since the death of her husband, and is a noble woman who is loved and esteemed by all who know her. She is a member of the Methodist church.

CHARLES HENTGES is another of the honored pioneer citizens who, after winning through association with productive farm industry a large measure of success, has found it his good fortune to have a pleasant home in the attractive city of Beatrice, where in retirement from active labors he is living in ease and comfort, secure in the independence that is justly his due.

Mr. Hentges is a native of the historic Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, which has been at different periods been under the domination of Germany, Spain, France, Austria, and the Netherlands, and which became a Belgian province in 1830. In this now independent and interesting province of Europe Mr. Hent-

ges was born January 16, 1839, a son of Matthias and Anna Mary (Stumpf) Hentges, who there passed their entire lives. Reared and educated in his native land, Mr. Hentges there continued his residence until 1869, when, at the age of thirty years, he immigrated to the United States. A stranger in a strange land, but well endowed with ambition and self-reliance, he made his way to the state of Illinois, where he found employment at farm work, at wages ranging from eighteen to twenty dollars a month. After being thus engaged four years he rented land in Livingston county, that state, where he continued independent farm enterprise until 1877, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, his arrival in Beatrice taking place shortly before Christmas of that year. In thus preparing himself to assume pioneer responsibilities Mr. Hentges brought with him a team and wagon, a few household goods and fifty dollars in money. He was accompanied by his wife and their two small children, and it may well be understood that without delay productive activity became imperative on his part. He rented a farm in Midland township, but as he could not gain possession of either the house or the land, he and his family installed themselves in an old shanty in the vicinity. This flimsy shelter was soon afterward subjected to the forces of a heavy blizzard, and the roof, covered merely with building paper, finally became so weighted with snow that it fell in, though the members of the family fortunately escaped more than minor injuries through the accident. In the bleak little building the only fuel obtainable was green wood, which was burned in the cook stove, and Mr. Hentges relates as one of his experiences at this time that he and his faithful wife would each take one of their little children on their laps and hold the tiny feet in the oven of the stove to keep the youngsters warm. Four years after coming to Gage county Mr. Hentges and his brother Nicholas each purchased one hundred acres of land in Hanover township, and he then turned his energies to breaking the raw prairie and bringing the land under cultivation. His first house on the new farm was a board shanty of two rooms, and this continued to be the family domicile for six years. He then made an appreciable addition to the building and with increasing prosperity he purchased an additional tract of one hundred acres. He diligently applied himself to farm industry on this place for ten years, at the expiration of which he sold the property and bought a well improved farm in Misland township. After remaining about eight years on this place Mr. Hentges and his wife removed to the city of Beatrice, where he has since lived practically retired, and they own their attractive home property, at 1503 Court street. Mr. Hentges still owns a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres in Midland township, the same being in charge of his sons, and the family estate includes also another farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in the same township, the same having been purchased with money which Mrs. Hartges inherited from her father's estate in Illinois.

In the year 1871, at Pontiac, Livingston county, Illinois, Mr. Hentges married Miss Anna Baumann, on whose father's farm her husband found his first employment upon coming to America. Mrs. Hentges likewise was born in Luxemburg, Germany, and she was a child at the time her parents came to the United States and settled in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Hentges became the parents of five children, the first born, Anna, having become the wife of Frederick Winkle and their home having been at Beatrice at the time of her death; Katie is the widow of Hanson Day, who met his death in an automobile accident, in the summer of 1917, and she now resides in Beatrice; Charles and Theodore have the active management of their father's fine farm in Midland township; and Emma is the wife of John Benton, of Midland township. Mr. and Mrs. Hentges point with justifiable pride to the fact that they now (1918) have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Both are devout communicants of the Catholic church and in politics he gives his support to the cause of the Democratic party. This venerable couple bore their full share of hardships and perplexities in the pioneer days. In

coming to Gage county from Illinois they brought as provisions a sack of beans and a quantity of ham. They extended their credit in securing two bushels of wheat, had the same ground in the old mill at Beatrice, and these meager provisions constituted virtually the entire contents of the family larder during the first winter and spring — until Mr. Hentges could raise some produce on the farm which he rented. In the early days the revered pioneer physician, Dr. Huff, attended the Hentges family in case of illness and as there was no available money to pay his moderate fees the doctor kindly consented to take his pay in wheat. Mr. Hentges retains splendid mental and physical vigor, but his wife is in impaired health, as she has endured two strokes of paralysis. Their home is known for its generous and unpretentious hospitality and they are always ready to extend welcome to their host of friends, especially those who with them endured the trials of the pioneer days.

HENRY REMMERS is proving himself one of the vigorous and successful exemplifiers of farm enterprise in his native county and township, and has made excellent improvements on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 24, Hanover township, the same being an integral part of the landed estate of his father, Thomas Remmers.

Henry Remmers was born on his father's old homestead farm in Hanover township, and the date of his nativity was January 4, 1874. He gained his youthful education in the local schools and continued to be associated with the work of the home farm until he attained to his legal majority, when he initiated independent operations on his present farm, on which he has erected a modern house and more recently a large barn of the best type. His political support is given to the Democratic party and he and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church.

In 1896 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Remmers to Miss Kate Parde, who was born in Illinois, and whose father, William Parde, is made the subject of individual mention on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Remmers have eight children, Thomas, Matilda, William, John Benjamin, Henry, Heye, Diedrick, and Alfred. All of the children remain at the parental home except the one daughter, who is the wife of John Busboom, of Logan township.

SAMUEL H. McKINNEY was born at Lanora, Kansas, on the 2d of May, 1885, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Decker) McKinney. William McKinney was born at Sandusky, Ohio, October 14, 1840, and is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, Nebraska. His wife, who was born at Dayton, Ohio, April 10, 1842, was about forty-five years of age at the time of her death, which occurred at Lanora, Kansas. The parents of William McKinney were Thomas E. and Mary (Adams) McKinney, the former having been of Irish and the latter of German descent. They came from their native countries to the United States when they were young folk, and eventually they settled in Buchanan county, Iowa, five miles distant from the site of the present fine little city of Independence. On his father's farm in Iowa William McKinney grew to manhood, and he was a youth of nineteen years at the outbreak of the Civil war. His youthful loyalty and patriotism were not long to lack definite expression, for, on the 11th of August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he went forth in defense of the Union. After serving six months, he received an incidental injury, at Memphis, Tennessee, and was discharged for disability. On his recovery he again enlisted, this time in Company D, Forty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. At the expiration of his one hundred days' enlistment he received an honorable discharge, at Davenport, Iowa, and returned to his old home in Buchanan county. There he was engaged in farming until 1876, when he removed to Norton county, Kansas, remaining there until he came to Nebraska, about thirty years ago. He settled in Beatrice, where he has since resided. His wife died before he left Kansas, leaving a family of seven children, all

but one of whom, Axie, the eldest daughter, are living. William A. resides in Beatrice, Nebraska; Nancy Edith is the wife of William Moore, of North Platte, Nebraska; Earl, a Methodist minister, resides at Edmonton, Canada; L. L. is a farmer near Logan, Nebraska; Charles A. is a resident of Beatrice; and Samuel H., subject of this review, is superintendent of the Gage county poor farm. Three of these sons, Earl, L. L., and Charles A., saw service in the Philippine war. Their father, who is now blind and receives a pension of thirty-six dollars a month from the government, resides with his son, Charles, in Beatrice.

Samuel H. McKinney spent his early years on a farm. His educational advantages were few and, added to this seeming misfortune, his mother died when he was only three years of age. Sometimes, however, by our very lack of those things which seem most desirable we are being fitted for our place in life. When Mr. McKinney took charge of the Gage county poor farm, in March, 1917, his former life had peculiarly trained him for the position. His sympathies had been broadened by the privations of his childhood, and his efficiency in handling the material side of his work had been developed by his service of seven years as custodian of the Beatrice National Bank Building, at Beatrice, this county, where his work was so satisfactory that no complaint was ever entered during the entire time of his service. For the two years following this, and immediately prior to entering upon his present duties, he had charge of the largest cell rooms in the Canyon City prison in Colorado, where he had under his care three hundred prisoners. In this way he was enabled to know at first hand the modern methods of caring for a public institution. His work here also was so satisfactory as to be commended by Warden John Cleghorn. At the Gage county poor farm, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres, and which houses about fourteen inmates at the present time, Mr. McKinney has seen the lack of many conveniences which he feels the public owes to those unfortunate enough to be made its charges. For, as he says, "The nation, state, and county provide quite comfortable quarters for those who by their own acts of wilfulness have been taken in charge and confined in prisons and jails as punishment for crimes committed. Why should the public not be willing to make comfortable the unfortunate ones who, not by choice, but often from circumstances not of their own making, are obliged to be inmates of alms houses?" It is largely due to his influence that as many of the improvements as the community feels able to provide are now being made.

On August 27, 1903, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Mr. McKinney wedded Miss Emma Jane Dillon, daughter of Zecharia and Nannie (Harper) Dillon who now reside at Benton City, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. McKinney have four children: Harry William, Pearl Etta, Thomas Wallace, and Ralph Emerson. His wife is a member of the Baptist church, and Mr. McKinney is a Master Mason, a member of Beatrice Lodge, No. 26. It need not be repeated that any man capable of filling the position occupied by Mr. McKinney is of value in any community.

JOHN FOSSLER, JR., is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 10, Logan township, and stands representative of the energy and progressiveness that make for substantial success in connection with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing. On other pages adequate record concerning the family is given in the sketch of the career of his father, John Fossler, Sr.

Mr. Fossler was born in Germany, on the 1st of December, 1866, and was about one year old at the time of the family immigration to the United States, his mother, whose maiden name was Ehe Jansen Lüken, having died six weeks after the family home had been established in the state of Missouri, within a short time after arrival in this country. The infant son John, of this review, was taken in the home which the father had established. After the lapse of a few years the father contracted a second marriage and when the son

was about seven years old he was taken into the home of which the father had established. It was a singular condition that came into evidence at this juncture, for in the interval of separation the boy had learned the German dialect spoken by the family by which he had been reared to that age and the same was so different from that spoken by his father that he was not able to understand the latter's conversation. He was seven years old when he accompanied his father to Nebraska and remained at the home in Nemaha county until he had attained to the age of seventeen years, when he came with his father to Gage county, his education in the meanwhile having been that afforded in the common schools. His independent activities as a farmer in Gage county began by his effecting a Scully lease, and with success attending his well directed energies he finally purchased his present farm, upon which he has made good improvements. In local affairs he is not restricted by partisan lines, as he gives his support to men and measures that meet the approval of his judgment, but for president he votes for the Republican candidate. He and his wife hold membership in the Hanover Lutheran church.

April 11, 1890, recorded the marriage of Mr. Fossler to Miss Gretje Leners, who was born in Hancock county, Illinois, August 1, 1871, and whose parents removed to Gage county in 1878, she having here been reared and educated; of her father, Renken Leners, special mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Fossler have five children: John, who is engaged in farming in Hooker township, married Miss Sophie Rademacher; Amanda is the wife of John Rademacher, likewise a farmer in that township; and Renken, Ehe Emma and Etta Mary are the younger members of the parental home circle.

GEORGE B. REYNOLDS is another of the venerable and revered pioneers who have played a worthy part in the development and progress of Gage county, where his activities have included both mercantile enterprise and farm industry, and since 1900 he has lived in well earned retirement, his pleasant home being at 1005 Market street in the city of Beatrice. He came to Gage county in the year following that of the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and in all the long intervening years he has here stood exponent of the best type of citizenship.

Mr. Reynolds was born in Sullivan county, New York, August 19, 1834, his parents having been pioneer settlers of that section of the Empire state, where his father reclaimed a productive farm from the forest. Mr. Reynolds is a son of Andrew and Catherine (Van Benschoten) Reynolds, both likewise natives of the state of New York, the latter having been a daughter of Garrett Van Benschoten, who was a scion of one of the sturdy Holland Dutch families early founded in that commonwealth and who was a valiant soldier of the Continental line in the war of the Revolution. The parents of Mr. Reynolds passed the closing period of their lives on their old homestead, in Fallsburg township, Sullivan county, where the father died in 1876, at the age of eighty-four years, and the mother in the following year, at the age of eighty-three years, both having been members of the Baptist church. The subject of this review is the youngest son in a family of five sons and three daughters, and is the only member of the family now living, Dr. H. M. Reynolds, of whom specific mention is made on other pages, was a member of the townsite company that founded the now vital and prosperous city of Beatrice, Nebraska.

In the common schools of his native county George B. Reynolds acquired his earlier education, which was supplemented by higher academic study in a well ordered institution at Bethany, Pennsylvania. He was an ambitious student and at the age of eighteen years he began teaching in the schools of his native state, his pedagogic service having continued during several winter terms of school.

On the 28th of December, 1858, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Reynolds to Miss Stella B. Sherwood, who likewise was a native of Sullivan county, New York, where she was born August 22, 1837, the eldest daughter of

Bradley B. and Eliza (Burr) Sherwood, natives of Connecticut and early settlers of Sullivan county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood came to Gage county, Nebraska, about 1880, and both passed the closing years of their lives at Beatrice, Mrs. Sherwood having been past seventy years of age at the time of her death and her husband having lived to be more than eighty years of age.

After his marriage Mr. Reynolds continued his residence in his native county until the autumn of 1868, when, in company with his wife and two sons he came to Nebraska and numbered himself as one of the pioneer merchants of Beatrice. In the capital town of Gage county he built up a large and prosperous general merchandise business, and this he conducted until 1883, having in the meanwhile taken up a homestead of eighty acres and having perfected his title to the same, this property being that on which the thriving village of Cortland is now established. Upon retiring from the mercantile business Mr. Reynolds purchased an unimproved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 15, Lincoln township, and he reclaimed this land, made the best of improvements on the place and there continued his activities as a progressive agriculturist and stock-grower for seventeen years. He purchased the property for twelve and one-half dollars an acre and in 1900 sold the same for one hundred and twenty dollars an acre. In the latter year he and his wife removed to Beatrice, where he has since lived retired, and the supreme loss and bereavement in his life came when his devoted companion, who had been his true helpmeet for more than half a century, passed to the life eternal, Mrs. Reynolds' death having occurred February 2, 1915, and her memory resting as a benediction upon all who had come within the compass of her gentle and gracious influence. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church, of which her husband likewise has been an active member for many years. Of their six children only one is now living, Stella E., who is the widow of Harry Davis and who now remains with her father in their pleasant home in Beatrice.

In politics Mr. Reynolds was for many years affiliated with the Republican party, but in later years he has given his allegiance to the Democratic party. Under the old supervisor system he represented Lincoln township on the county board of supervisors, and he served one term as city treasurer of Beatrice. His earnest desire to further true democratic government led him to identify himself with the Farmers' Alliance and the People's Independent party during the period when these organizations were influential in the west. He has lived and labored to goodly ends and may look back with satisfaction upon a career marked by earnest and worthy endeavor.

DORR D. BRAINARD.—One of the younger men of Gage county who has won a place in the business circles of his community is Dorr D. Brainard, manager of an undertaking and furniture business at Odell, Nebraska. A native of Seward county, Nebraska, he was born September 8, 1880. His parents, Everett and Eliza (Osborne) Brainard, were natives of Galesburg, Illinois, and came to Seward county in 1880. They cast in their lot with the pioneers of that county, where Mr. Brainard was a successful farmer until he retired. They still make their home in the county.

Dorr D. Brainard was reared on a farm in his native county, and after attending the country school he continued his studies in the Tamora high school. Mr. Brainard's initial work in the business world was as a clerk for S. R. Anstine, with whom he remained three years. He then gave his attention to farming until 1909, when he became a clerk for W. W. Scott, of Beatrice, Nebraska, where he was employed for five years and learned all the phases of the business. On April 14, 1914, Mr. Brainard was called to take charge of the business of Henry Kasparek, at Odell, Mr. Kasparek having passed away on the 8th day of that month. Mr. Brainard demonstrated his ability to such an extent that his services have since been retained as manager of the business. He is thoroughly familiar with every detail of the furniture business, and the concern by which he is employed, as well as

the community he serves, has profited by his ability in his chosen field. The finest automobile hearse in Gage county is the one owned by Mrs. Kasparek, and it is called to serve a wide territory in the southwest part of Gage county.

Mr. Brainard was united in marriage to Miss Jeanette Atherton, of Winfield, Kansas. She lived at Wilber, Nebraska, at the time of her marriage. She and her husband are members of the Methodist church and he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

CHARLES HUGHES is a member of that sterling contingent of retired farmers living in the city of Beatrice and has been a resident of Gage county for nearly thirty years,— a statement that indicates clearly that he is entitled to pioneer honors.

Mr. Hughes was born in New York city, September 18, 1857, a son of Henry and Isabella (Sutters) Hughes, the former a native of the old Empire state and the latter of the city of Glasgow, Scotland. The subject of this review was a child when his parents removed to Illinois and settled in Will county, where he was reared to adult age and where he was afforded the advantages of the public schools. In 1879 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Filley township, not the least improvement having been made on the place and the survey of the township having not yet been completed. Applying himself with characteristic energy and nerve, Mr. Hughes made each successive year count in the improving of his farm property and in making his well ordered farm enterprise productive of returns. He developed one of the valuable farms of Filley township, and in later years gave much attention to stock-raising in connection with his agricultural activities. When he came to the county, Filley township was traversed by no railroad and the present city of Beatrice was but a small village. Mr. Hughes remained on his farm until 1912, since which time he has lived practically retired in the city of Beatrice, where he and his wife have an attractive home, at 601 Eleventh street. He is the owner of two farms,— two hundred acres in Logan township and two hundred and forty in Filley township. He is a stockholder of the Beatrice State Bank and is one of the substantial citizens of the county, a man who has achieved success through his own well directed endeavors. His political support is given to the Republican party and he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

In 1886 Mr. Hughes wedded Miss Ada Cowen, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of the late John and Ruth Cowan. She came to Gage county in 1876, with her mother, and settled in Filley township. The venerable mother now lives in Johnson county. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have but one child, Frank D., who is serving as deputy clerk of the district court of Gage county: he married Miss Inez Sloneger and they have one child, Ruth Elizabeth.

JOHN LE POIDEVIN, retired farmer, of Odell, Nebraska, is one of the old pioneers of Nebraska and Gage county. The present generation is enjoying the fruits of the labors of the early men and women who came to till the soil and build the villages and cities. These men struggled and labored with nature, to wrest from her the treasures of wheat and corn and to give to their posterity broad and fertile lands to till. One of these men who braved the hardships of pioneer days is John Le Poidevin. He was born April 19, 1842, on the island of Guernsey, in the English Channel, England, and is the son of Job and Rachel (Cohn) Le Poidevin. (See Thomas Le Poidevin sketch in this volume for the family history.)

The early years of Mr. Le Poidevin's life were spent on a farm, where he was continuously learning the art and industry of agriculture, thus fortifying himself for the duties and responsibilities of later life. In 1868 he came to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he worked as a laborer. It was here, March 19, 1873, he married Ophelia A. Martin. After their marriage, these two young persons, with

hearts full of hope and courage, took a homestead in Saline county and began to develop this tract of unbroken prairie. They remained on this homestead fifteen years, and then, in 1888, they purchased from the government one hundred and sixty acres of land on the Otoe Indian reservation, later buying an additional forty acres and bringing the total area up to two hundred acres. They improved this land, building their house, barns, fences and outbuildings, and soon had the pleasure of seeing acres of waving grain where formerly wide stretches of prairie had been. Mr. Le Poidevin specialized in Chester White hogs. They retired from active farming in 1913 and moved to Odell, where Mr. Le Poidevin owns a pleasant home. Mrs. Le Poidevin shared in all of the labors of her husband and her untiring energy and helpfulness at all times made it possible for him to be successful in his work. She was born in Essex, New York, December 3, 1855, and came to Beatrice in 1870. Here she lived with her brother until she married John Le Poidevin. Her death occurred September 11, 1916. Ten children were born to this union as follows: Lillie B. and Alfred, both deceased; Clem, who married Nellie Zugmier and lives in Glenwood township; Mrs. Minnie M. Showers, of Odell; Phoebe A., wife of W. Zugmier, of Odell; Etta, who died in infancy; Bertha R., who is deceased; Herbert, who is farming in Glenwood township; Job E. who married Hazel Edington, and is farming the old homestead of his father; and Grace, who is the wife of O. Martin, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Democratic party receives the support of Mr. Le Poidevin. He has sought no political honors, but devoted his entire time to his farm and family. He is a shareholder in grain-elevator and lumber company of Odell and is a citizen who has given of his life to the creation of a great agricultural community.

JOSEPH SHALLA.— The farmers of our nation are the men who constitute the basic element in our industrial and commercial life. Joseph Shalla, a farmer of Barneston township, owns five hundred and eighty acres of land, well improved and in a high state of cultivation, and is bearing his share of the responsibilities incidental to providing the necessities of life. He has a farm that is well improved with a comfortable house and the various buildings requisite for the care of his livestock and agricultural products. Mr. Shalla was born December 28, 1866, in Iowa county, Iowa, the son of Vencil and Barbara Shalla. For a complete history of this farmily see John Shalla sketch in another portion of this volume.

In 1876 Joseph Shalla's parents established their home in Gage county and in this locality they reared their children. Joseph attended the district school and when he reached manhood he continued his alliance with farm industry. In 1890 he purchased eighty acres of land, and, in consonance with his means and opportunities, he has since added to his land until he is now the owner of five hundred and eighty acres of land in Barneston township.

In 1888 Joseph Shalla married Miss Emma Roch, a daughter of John Roch, who was an early settler of Saline county and who later, in 1887, took up his residence upon a farm in Gage county. His daughter Emma was born in Saline county, and continued her education in Gage county, where was solemnized her marriage to Mr. Shalla and they are the parents of four children: Bessie, the first born, is now the wife of William Phlhal, who is a farmer in Liberty township. Next in order is Emma, who is the wife of Fred Wier, a farmer of Liberty township. Elsie and Mabel are still under the parental roof and doing their share of the home duties.

Mr. Shalla was brought up in the Catholic church, in which he has been a communicant all these years, and his children attend the Baptist Sunday school. The Republican party receives the vote of Mr. Shalla and he is a progressive farmer who has won success in life by dint of hard labor and faithfulness to work.

CHARLES C. GAFFORD, M. D., was the first physician to locate in what is now the city of Wymore, Gage county. Dr. Gafford

was born at Des Moines, Iowa, February 23, 1860, a son of James and Dorcas (Sherwood) Gafford, natives of Maryland and New York, respectively. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Ohio, and the father thereafter was engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Des Moines, Iowa; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Hiawatha, Kansas. He died in Kansas, at the age of eighty-four years, and his wife was seventy-two years of age when she was called to her final rest. Dr. Charles C. Gafford was one of a family of eleven children and his boyhood days were spent largely at Hiawatha, Kansas, where he attended the public schools. He prepared for his profession at the Keokuk Medical College, Keokuk, Iowa, in which institution he was graduated in 1881. In that year he came to Wymore, then a new town, and here he had the distinction of becoming the first physician and surgeon of the vital little village, which has been developed into a fine community.

Dr. Gafford has taken a keen interest in all civic affairs of the community and has served as mayor of Wymore. In 1887-1888 he represented Gage county in the lower house of the state legislature, in which he served as chairman of the committee on asylums. Along strictly professional lines he is a member of the American Medical Association, the Gage County Medical Society and the International Association of Railroad Surgeons. For thirty-six years Dr. Gafford has been division surgeon for the Burlington Railroad, and this is a longer continuous service than that of any other Burlington surgeon west of the Missouri river.

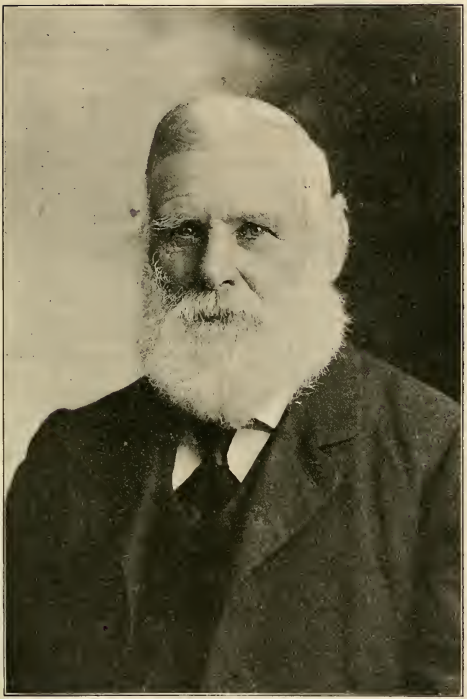
Dr. Gafford married Miss Mary Fenton, a native of New York. They have one child, Miss Grace.

JACOB TAYLOR.— The late Jacob Taylor was born in Lancashire, England, September 3, 1827, a son of John and Ann (Greenhalgh) Taylor, who spent their entire lives in their native land, as did all of their ten children except their son Jacob, the honored subject of this memoir. Jacob Taylor acquired his education in the schools of his native land and as a young man he there learned the carpenter's trade, under the instruction of his father. Later he became a machinist and as such he was employed until he came to America. He sailed from Liverpool on the 15th of October, 1858, and after a voyage of six weeks he landed at New Orleans. Going from there to Peoria, Illinois, he stayed for a time with an uncle, John Greenhalgh, and then proceeded to Wyoming, Stark county, Illinois. His financial resources at the time were summed up in the amount of about sixty dollars. He became a successful farmer and the owner of a valuable Illinois farm. In 1876 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he invested in land, his older son coming here and taking charge of the property. In 1882 Mr. Taylor came with his family to this county and engaged in agricultural pursuits in Sicily township. Later he retired to Wymore. There he built the large house, opposite the old Touzalin Hotel, and in this pleasant home he and his wife spent the remaining years of their lives.

In England was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Taylor to Miss Alice Howarth, and they became the parents of seven children — Mrs. John L. Dawson, of Wymore; Mrs. J. E. Kelly, of University Place, Nebraska; Edwin, residing in Elk county, Kansas; Albert, of Kansas City, Missouri; Sherman, of Wymore; John, of Lincoln, Nebraska; and James, deceased.

Mr. Taylor possessed those sterling qualities of character that won for him many friends, all of whom held him in the highest esteem. He displayed keen discrimination in business, and became a man of affluence, owning over one thousand acres of land in Gage county. He voted the Republican ticket and took an active interest in the political, social, and educational welfare of the county, where members of his family still reside and are upholding the honors of the name.

GEORGE W. REIFF.— The day of the unskilled farmer has passed and the day of the educated farmer has dawned. The farm-



JACOB TAYLOR

er of to-day and of the future must be familiar with the latest and most improved methods of intensive cultivation and animal husbandry, besides giving a businesslike management of his debits and credits. Such a one, who has received the education necessary to carry on his farming operations in a businesslike manner, is George Reiff, of Section 26, Rockford township.

Mr. Reiff was born in Woodford county, Illinois, December 28, 1882, and is the son of Andrew and Catherine (Mast) Reiff. Andrew Reiff was born August 4, 1855, and died June 11, 1911. His wife was born January 1, 1860, and is a daughter of Abraham and Barbara (Apple) Mast.

Andrew Reiff was a son of Joseph Reiff, who was a farmer in Illinois and Gage county, as well. He owned considerable land in Gage county and died at Beatrice. Andrew Reiff was married in Illinois to Catherine Mast and for a number of years farmed eighty acres of land there. After selling this property, in 1884, he came to Gage county and purchased two hundred acres of land in Rockford township, from Esquire Alberts. From time to time he purchased more of the fertile land, until he owned one thousand acres. On the farm where he resided he built a beautiful home and it is surrounded with evergreens, making the cool shade in summer and breaking the "northwester" of the winter. His widow, at the present time, lives in Beatrice. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Frank was killed December 11, 1912 by a tree which he was felling: his widow, Maude (Shock) Reiff and their two children, Eunice and Andrew, reside in Beatrice; George W. is the subject of this sketch; William lives north of Holmesville; Alice, is the wife of Joseph Nickey, living in Monticello, Minnesota, a farmer, also a graduate of an agricultural college; Pearl is at home with her mother, in Beatrice.

Andrew Reiff had started life with practically nothing and at his death was a man of wealth, gained through his industry and carefulness in every detail. His religious faith was that of the Dunkard church and in politics he was a Republican.

George Reiff was educated in the educational institutions of Gage county, graduating in the district school and also the Northwestern Business College at Beatrice. His education was rounded out by his attending the Nebraska Agricultural College, at Lincoln.

February 5, 1908, Mr. Reiff was married to Clara Lewis, who was born March 26, 1885, in Richardson county, Nebraska. She is a daughter of John and Anna (Williams) Lewis, who are farming in Blue Springs township, where they located after coming from Yates Center, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Reiff are the parents of one child, Grace, born in 1912. They are members of the Methodist church and attend the services in Holmesvile. Mr. Reiff votes the Republican ticket. His farming operations, in Section 26, Rockford township, are along general lines with the exception of the full blooded Rhode Island Red poultry which he raises and of which he is justly proud.

L. L. McKEEVER, who is engaged in general farming in Sicily township, was born in Woodford county, Illinois, May 22, 1874, and is a son of J. H. and Harriet (Burley) McKeever.

J. H. McKeever was born in Kirkville, Ohio, and removed to Woodford county, Illinois, in 1866, in company with his wife and their two children. At the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. McKeever enlisted in an Ohio regiment of volunteers and served four years, leaving his wife and two children at home while he was thus gallantly serving in defense of the nation's integrity. After the war Mr. McKeever was engaged in farming in Woodford county, Illinois, until 1882, when he came to Nebraska with team and covered wagon and settled on one hundred and twenty acres of land which he had purchased, in what is now Section 33, Sicily township. This land he bought from a Mr. McGinnis, who had homesteaded it. Later he bought additional land, and at one time he owned four hundred and twenty acres in this county. In 1893

Mr. and Mrs. McKeever retired and moved to Wymore, Nebraska, where they lived until the death of Mrs. McKeever, which occurred in 1915. Afterward Mr. McKeever, not caring to live alone, went to the National military home at Leavenworth, Kansas, where he now resides. He was one of Gage county's early settlers and highly respected citizens. Mr. and Mrs. McKeever were the parents of six children, the first two having been born in Ohio and the others in Illinois: Charles is living in Arkansas; Ida resides in Colorado; Mary died September 2, 1894; L. L. is the subject of this review; and Laura is the wife of Thomas Sipe, of Colorado.

L. L. McKeever came to Nebraska with his parents as a child and has passed most of his life on the farm which is now his home. He received his early education in the public schools of Gage county and has always followed farming. Mr. McKeever chose as his wife Miss Lettie Clarridge, of Fairfield, Iowa. Mrs. McKeever is a daughter of Mace and Louise Clarridge, who were born in Ohio and passed the closing years of their lives in Iowa, where the father was a successful farmer and honored pioneer. Mr. and Mrs. McKeever have had five children, of whom those living are: Helen, Lester, Ross, and Raymond.

Eighteen years ago Mr. McKeever came into possession of the home farm, on which he has since lived. This is one of the finest farms in Sicily township, well improved and equipped with a good house and other excellent farm buildings. Mr. McKeever is a Republican, but holds no political office, devoting his entire time to his farm, on which he is making a success. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife are members of the adjunct organization, the Daughters of Rebekah.

LENHARD KOENIG.— One of the fine landed estates of Blakely township is that owned by Mr. Koenig, the same comprising two hundred acres and being eligibly situated in Section 15, about six miles distant from the city of Beatrice. He is one of the energetic and successful agriculturists of Gage county and is a substantial and popular citizen specially entitled to recognition in this work. The fifth in order of birth of the nine children of Theodore and Margaret Koenig, Lenhard Koenig was born in Maryland, on the 12th of September, 1870. His father was born in Germany and came to America when fourteen years of age. He became a skilled workman at the cooper's trade and followed the same in Maryland for a long term of years. In 1877 he came with his family to Gage county and here he purchased a pioneer farm in Blakely township. He reclaimed his land to cultivation, made good improvements on the place and there continued his activities until 1890, when he removed to Montana. There he continued operations as a farmer until his death, in 1907, at the age of seventy-nine years. His widow still resides in Montana and is a devout communicant of the Lutheran church, as was also Mr. Koenig himself, both having aided in organizing the church of this denomination in Blakely township.

Lenhard Koenig was a lad of about seven years at the time of the family removal to Gage county, where he was reared on the pioneer farm and where his early educational advantages were those afforded in the district schools. He gained first knowledge of all details of farm work and thus fortified himself well for his independent activities of later years. At the age of twenty-eight years Mr. Koenig married Miss Hannah Buss, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of Henry G. Buss, a sterling Gage county pioneer of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Koenig purchased his present farm in 1905 and upon the same he has made extensive improvements, so that it constitutes one of the model places of Blakely township. He has been one of the world's vigorous and indefatigable workers and through his well directed energies has achieved definite and well merited prosperity, the while he has so ordered his course as to retain the unqualified confidence and respect of his fellow men, his wife having been his devoted helpmeet in all that this gracious scrip-

tural term implies. He is one of the leading stockholders of the farmers co-operative elevator company at Hoag and is serving as a director of the same. Though he has manifested no ambition for political office of any kind he gives loyal support to the cause of the Democratic party and as a citizen shows a true sense of the stewardship that personal success involves. He and his wife have seven children, all of whom remain at the parental home, namely: Lydia, Dora, Martha, Theodore, Albert, Lenhard, Jr., and Helen.

ELMER E. CHAMBERLIN was born in New York state, February 8, 1861, and is a son of William and Nancy Maria (Carswell) Chamberlin. William Chamberlin was born January 10, 1824 in New York state, his father, Andrew Chamberlin, having been born in New Jersey and having eventually settled in New York, where he followed agricultural pursuits until his death. His son William was reared and educated in the old Empire state and took unto himself as his wife Nancy Maria Carswell, a daughter of David and Martha Carswell, natives of New York state, where they spent their lives, as representatives of agricultural enterprise. William Chamberlin and his wife were well-to-do farming folk and gave their sons and daughters good educational advantages. William passed away January 23, 1890, and his wife, born April 21, 1828, was laid to rest January 30, 1892. Seven children were born to them, five of whom are living, as follows: Mary is the wife of H. R. Cleveland, a retired farmer living in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Elmer E. is the immediate subject of this sketch; James married May Terry and is farming in Blue Springs township; they have two children Marguerite and Francis; Francis, next in order of birth of the children, is unmarried and is a school teacher at Phoenix, Arizona; Charles is a wealthy retired farmer living at Salem, New York.

Elmer Chamberlin was reared and educated in New York state, attending the rural schools and supplementing this discipline by attending Washington Academy, at Salem, New York. In 1885 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and rented land, having practically no financial reserve but unbounded faith in himself and the land he was tilling. For ten years he continued renting and then, in 1895, he purchased the nucleus around which his further acquisitions of land have gathered, until he is now the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres in Blue Springs township, one hundred and sixty acres in Rockford township and a section of land in Canada.

July 11, 1888, Mr. Chamberlin married Anna I. Tobyne, who was born in Gage county, a daughter of James Tobyne.

In the years that Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin have been increasing their land holdings, sons and daughters have grown up around them and they have given all of them the best of educations. Two have graduated from Nebraska University and the three younger are now attending the same institution. They are as follows: Warren E., born in April, 1889, is farming some of his father's land in Blue Springs township; William, born in 1891, is teller of the City National Bank, Lincoln, Nebraska; Guy is athletic coach at Lexington, Nebraska; Francis and Ramona (twins) and Truman are attending the University of Nebraska at the time of this writing.

Mr. Chamberlin has devoted his time and energies to farm enterprise and has never sought any political office. He is an independent Republican in politics and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church at Blue Springs; they are valued members of their community.

LLOYD L. STROUGH is one of the enterprising farmers of the younger generation in Holt township, where he is giving his attention to agricultural and live-stock industry on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, of which he owns eighty acres, in Section 33. He was born in Holt township, this county, on the 26th of February, 1883, and is a son of John and Sarah (Bowers) Strough, of whom mention is made on other pages of this work.

Lloyd L. Strough was reared on the old homestead farm which is his present place of residence and progressive activities as a farm-

er, and in addition to having received the advantages of the district schools and the public schools at Beatrice he also completed an effective course in the Beatrice Business College. He initiated his independent career as a farmer shortly after attaining his legal majority. He rented land from his father and in 1917 he purchased from the latter eighty acres of his present well improved farm. In addition to his successful agricultural enterprise, he is proving very successful also as a breeder and grower of Poland-China swine. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist church.

On the 27th of November, 1907, Mr. Strough wedded Miss May Rhodes, who was born in Pawnee county, this state, a daughter of Julius Rhodes, who is one of the substantial farmers of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Strough have two children,—Keith and Lauren.

GEORGE W. NICHOLAS.—Though Mr. Nicholas is now serving as postmaster of the village of Dewitt, Saline county, he is entitled to recognition in this history, for not only is he a native of Gage county and a representative of one of its sterling pioneer families but is also the owner of a fine farm on Section 30, Grant township, his farm being about one and one-half miles distant from the village of Dewitt, where he resides and is a prominent and influential citizen.

Mr. Nicholas was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Grant township, Gage county, and the date of his nativitiy was March 29, 1870. He was the fifth in order of birth of the family of Robert and Mary Ann (Plucknett) Nicholas, of whom a record will be found on other pages of this volume.

George W. Nicholas gained his early education in the pioneer schools which his father aided in organizing in Grant township, and his independent career as a farmer was initiated when his father gave him a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, a property which he still owns, and upon which he continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower until 1905. He then removed to Dewitt and engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock, in which he continued for ten years. In 1915, Mr. Nicholas was appointed postmaster of Dewitt, which position he still holds. He has given a most effective administration, and from the Dewitt postoffice, service is now given on four rural free-delivery routes. In politics Mr. Nicholas is a stalwart advocate and supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and he has been influential in its affairs in Gage and Saline counties. He has served four years as village treasurer of Dewitt and has been specially active and liberal in support of measures advanced for the general good of the community. He and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church, and he affiliates with the Masonic fraternity, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. It is worthy of note that Mr. Nicholas had the distinction of killing the last deer that appeared within the borders of Gage county,—in 1883.

On September 12, 1894, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Nicholas to Miss Agnes I. Moore, who was born in Jones county, Iowa, and whose parents, Thomas and Louisa (Milligan) Moore, removed from that state to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas became the parents of two children; George W. and Wallace M. the latter of whom died in childhood; George W., Jr., was graduated in the Beatrice high school as a member of the class of 1912, and was one of the foremost players on its football team. He is now assisting his father by his efficient services as deputy postmast at Dewitt.

JAMES P. SAUNDERS.—The metewand by which are gauged personal ability and popularity will find no indirection or obscurity of application when brought to bear in the determining of the status of James P. Saunders, who, served from 1916 until the spring of 1918 as mayor of the city of Beatrice. This former chief executive, who gave such admirable administration of the municipal government of the Gage county metropolis, is a citizen who has here maintained his home for

thirty-eight years and who has staged his various productive activities — as a business man and as a public official — in such a way as to inure greatly and conspiciously to the furtherance of civic and material development and progress in the city and county in which he justly claims pioneer honors. He has held various local offices of public trust and as mayor stood exponent of those vital and progressive policies that inevitably conserve the best interests of the community.

A scion of the staunchest of colonial New England stock, Mr. Saunders reverts with a due measure of pride to the fact that he can claim the old Pine Tree state as the place of his nativity. He was born in Hancock county, Maine, on the 2d of September, 1852, and is a son of Thaddeus S. and Eliza Jane (Doyle) Saunders. Born and reared in Maine, Thaddeus S. Saunders there learned the trade of ship carpenter and became thus actively associated with the maritime interests of his native commonwealth. In the little seaport city of Kittery, Maine, he worked at his trade in the United States navy yard during the climacteric period of the Civil war, and in this connection it is interesting to record that he assisted in the construction of the historic battleship "Kearsarge." In 1867 Mr. Saunders removed with his family to Bradford, Stark county, Illinois, and there he continued to follow the trade of carpenter until his death, at the age of fifty-eight years. His widow long survived him and about 1882 came with one of her daughters to join her son James P., of this review, in Nebraska, where she lived to attain to the venerable age of eighty-two years, her death having occurred at Lodgepole, Cheyenne county. Of the seven children five attained to maturity, and of this number three sons and one daughter are now living.

James P. Saunders is indebted to the public schools of his native state for his preliminary educational discipline, which was then supplemented by his attending a seminary at Bucksport. He was a lad of about fifteen years at the time of the family removal to Illinois, and there he worked with his father at the carpenter's trade until he could provide ways and means for acquiring higher academic schooling. This he achieved by entering Lombard College, at Galesburg, Illinois, and in this institution he continued his studies two years. For the ensuing two years he found employment in connection with the bridge department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and he devoted the major part of his time during the next four years to the reading of law, in the office and under the preceptorship of Benjamin F. Thompson, of Bradford, Illinois. The ambition of the embryo lawyer led him then to come to the west with the determination to apply for admission to the bar of Nebraska. In the year 1880 Mr. Saunders arrived in Beatrice, which was then little more than a straggling frontier village, and here he entered the law office of Bush & Rickards, where he continued his technical studies about one year. He then initiated his service in connection with public affairs in Gage county by accepting a position in the office of the county clerk and recorder, J. E. Hill being the county clerk at the time. A year later Mr. Saunders became associated with the abstract office and business of John Ellis, and about two years thereafter he identified himself with the Gage County Abstract Company, in which connection he compiled an entire new and complete set of abstract books and made the record effectively and authoritatively cover the entire county. With this company he continued his connection until 1893 and in the following year, with the best of records and facilities, he established himself independently in the abstract business, as a member of the firm of Saunders & Emery, in which his coadjutor was George E. Emery. To this successful enterprise Mr. Saunders continued to give his attention almost exclusively until 1898, when he was elected city treasurer, an office of which he continued the incumbent four years and in which he ably and carefully administered the fiscal affairs of the city. Thereafter he served four years as deputy county treasurer, and it is worthy of special note that the entire management and work of the office were reposed in him during this interval, as the regular incumbent of the office

of treasurer gave virtually no attention to the executive details of the office. After his retirement from this responsible position Mr. Saunders resumed his activities in the abstract business, and to the same he gave his time until popular appreciation of his character and ability brought him again into public service, by his election to the office of mayor of Beatrice in the year 1916. With characteristic loyalty and vigor Mr. Saunders gave effective administration in the position of mayor of Beatrice, and under his regime many improvements were effected in the public utilities and other departments of the municipal government.

The political allegiance of Mr. Saunders has never swerved and he has been active and influential in the local councils of the Republican party. He served two years as a member of the board of education of Beatrice and prior to his election to the mayoralty he had been for four years a progressive and valued member of the city council. During one year of his incumbency he was president of the council. He served for a short time also as city clerk, to fill a vacancy in this office. Mr. Saunders has taken at all times the most lively interest in all things pertaining to his home city and county and in 1896 he executed a complete and reliable map of Gage county, the same having been authoritative and having continued in use until 1916, when he again brought to bear his cartographic skill, by making a new and authoritative map which gives all details normally pertaining to such productions and which also covers most fully the platting of the city of Beatrice and the smaller municipalities of the county. Since 1893 Mr. Saunders has been in active affiliation with Beatrice Lodge, No. 26, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

On the 13th of March, 1882, Mr. Saunders married Miss Anna Coe, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, a daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Brown) Coe, both natives of Ohio. In 1879 Ebenezer Coe came with his family to Gage county and established his residence at Beatrice, where he engaged in business at his trade, that of cabinetmaker. He was an honored factor in community affairs and both he and his wife were active in church work, both having attained to advanced age and both having been sterling pioneer citizens of Beatrice at the time of their death. Mrs. Anna (Coe) Saunders acquired her earlier educational discipline in Illinois and continued her studies in the Beatrice schools after the family removal to Gage county. She was loved by all who came within the compass of her personal influence and her death occurred June 17, 1909. Of the four children one died in infancy and the others survive the loved mother: Marie is the wife of W. L. Lee, of Beatrice; Thaddeus E., who was graduated in the University of Nebraska, was holding a responsible business position at the time when the United States declared war against Germany, and he promptly evinced his patriotism by enlisting as a private in the national army, in which he has won promotion to the rank of lieutenant, being stationed, at the opening of the year 1918, with his command at Camp Lewis, Washington; and Helene, the youngest of the children, is the wife of Charles Pyle, of Beatrice.

On the 17th of June, 1915, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Saunders to Mrs. Bertha E. (Clemens) Cone, of Lincoln, Nebraska, she having been born in Pennsylvania and being a distant kinswoman of the late and distinguished author best known as Mark Twain. Mrs. Saunders is the gracious and popular chatelaine of the attractive home, is a leader in the representative social activities of the community and is an earnest communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church.

FREEMAN E. CLAYTON is a member of a well known pioneer family of Gage county and has become a successful exponent of farm industry in Sicily township, where he gives his attention to the operation of a well improved domain of three hundred and forty-five acres. Of the family history due record is given on other pages, in the sketch dedicated to Isaac R. Clayton, father of him whose name introduces this paragraph.

Freeman E. Clayton was born in Stark

county, Illinois, on the 30th of May, 1874, and was a child at the time when the family came to Nebraska and settled in Gage county. Here he was reared on the pioneer farm, the while he profited by the advantages of the district schools. Of the large tract of land on which he prosecutes his vigorous operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of his father, the latter having developed in the early days a productive farm from the virgin prairie in this part of the county. On his home place Mr. Clayton has good buildings, including an attractive farm residence, the buildings having been erected by his father.

In politics Mr. Clayton gives his support to the cause of the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Wymore camp of the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife hold membership in the Baptist church.

In the year 1898 Mr. Clayton wedded Miss Helen E. Armstrong, who was born in Canada, and they have five children,— Loren Herbert, William Homer, Gilbert LeRoy, Frederick Randolph and Paul Morris.

FRANK MOSELEY was an honored representative of the class of sturdy men who came to Gage county in the early stages of its history and contributed toward the development that has made it foremost among the agricultural sections of the state.

Frank Moseley was born in Lee county, Illinois, October 1, 1852, a son of Joseph and Margaret (Moore) Moseley, natives respectively of England and Pennsylvania. Joseph Moseley was a farmer and spent his last days in Lee county, Illinois, where he was numbered among the pioneers of that section of the state. His death occurred in 1886. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Clinton, and she was twice married, her first husband having been named Moore. Two of her sons, John Moore and William Moseley were soldiers in the Civil war. Mrs. Moseley passed the closing period of her life in Thayer county, Nebraska.

Frank Moseley was reared and educated in his native county, and in 1876 he became a resident of Page county, Iowa. There he married and in 1879 he became a resident of Thayer county, Nebraska, where he lived until 1883. He then came to Gage county and bought land in Paddock township. This he improved and developed and at his death, which occurred May 10, 1915, he was one of the extensive land owners of the township where he had lived for thirty-two years.

In Page county, Iowa, on the 26th of November, 1879, Frank Moseley married Miss Lovisa Beer, a daughter of William Beer. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moseley are as here noted: Nellie M. is the wife of Fred Drake, a resident of Idaho; Fred R., married Jessie Long and they live in Idaho; Ida J. is the wife of Dr. E. L. Feese, of Wymore, Gage county; Paul F. is a farmer of Paddock township and is individually represented on other pages of this volume; Maude M. is the wife of Dr. T. L. Cartney, of Idaho; and Max J. remains with his widowed mother. After the death of Mr. Moseley the estate was divided among his children and his widow now resides in Idaho, where all except two of her children have found homes.

RAY C. HEFFELFINGER, manager of the Beatrice Hide Company, is to be designated not only as one of the representative business men of the younger generation in the fair metropolis of Gage county but also has the distinction of being mayor of this city, an office which he assumed in April, 1918. His election to this important executive position in connection with the municipal government of Beatrice attests alike to his ability and his personal popularity. His administration as mayor is certain to be marked by the loyalty and progressiveness that have signally characterized his business career.

Mr. Heffelfinger was born at Geneseo, Illinois, on the 27th of January, 1887, and is a son of Bell M. and Louisa (Wagner) Heffelfinger, whose marriage was solemnized at Geneseo and who became the parents of six children, namely: Otis R., of Beatrice; Roy W., of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Harlan W., of Superior, Nebraska; Ray C., subject of this review;

Flossie, wife of Pearl F. Ahlquist, of Buhl, Idaho; and Percy F., of Beatrice. Of Otis B. and Percy F. individual mention is made on other pages, of this volume.

Bell M. Heffelfinger claimed the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity and was there reared and educated. He was born at Wooster, Ohio, on the 9th of November, 1859, and as a young man he followed farm enterprise in Ohio, as did he later in Illinois, in which latter state his marriage occurred, as previously noted in this context. In 1888 he came with his family to Nebraska, and thereafter he maintained his residence at Grand Island, this state, until 1889, when he came to Gage county and established himself in the wholesale meat business and the buying and shipping of live stock. With these important lines of enterprise he continued to be successfully identified until his death, which here occurred on the 24th of January, 1908. His widow still maintains her home in Beatrice.

Ray C. Heffelfinger was educated in the public schools of Beatrice and in the Beatrice Business College. After leaving school he became associated with his father's wholesale meat and live-stock business, and with this enterprise he continued his connection until 1911, when he purchased and assumed control of the business of the Beatrice Hide Company Of this business he is the general manager and under his vigorous direction the enterprise has been signally prosperous. Mr. Heffelfinger is the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres, in Riverside township, this property having been purchased by him in the winter of 1916.

Mayor Heffelfinger has been unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party and has been active in its local ranks, as a citizen of distinctive loyalty and public spirit. In April, 1918, the popular estimate placed upon him was significantly shown in his election to the office of mayor of Beatrice, and he assumed the functions of this municipal post on the 9th of April, 1918. He holds membership in the Royal Highlanders and he and his wife affiliate with the First Christian church of Beatrice.

On the 27th of July, 1911, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Heffelfinger to Miss Edith Brandt, daughter of John and Mary Brandt, of Beatrice, and the two children of this union are Edna Louise and Clifford John.

LLOYD H. TILTON is successfully conducting operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower in his native township and stages his activities on the old homestead farm, in Section 15, Filley township, which was the place of his birth, the date of his nativity having been February 5, 1877. His parents, Curtis and Olive (Burright) Tilton, were born and reared in Ogle county, Illinois, where their marriage was solemnized and where they continued their residence until the Centennial year, 1876, when they came to Nebraska and established their home on a pioneer farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which the father reclaimed and improved and to which he added until he was the owner of a valuable property of two hundred and forty acres. He was one of the vigorous farmers and representative citizens of Filley township and remained on his old homestead until his death, which occurred September 11, 1916, his widow having passed away on the 11th of the following month. Curtis Tilton was a Republican in politics and the high regard in which he was held in his home community was shown in his having been called upon to serve two terms as township clerk and one term as representative of Filley township on the county board of supervisors. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, was a member of the Christian church and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. They became the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, and of the number Lloyd H., of this review, is the eldest; Mabel G. is the wife of Frederick Cornelius and they reside at University place, Lancaster county; Earl is a resident of the city of Beatrice and Ralph of Lincoln; and Frank, Andrew, and Leon W. continue to be associated with farm enterprise in Filley township.

Lloyd H. Tilton profited duly by the advantages afforded in the district schools and at the age of twenty years he initiated his in-

MRS. CURTIS TILTON

CURTIS TILTON

dependent operations as a farmer, though he remained at the parental home for two years thereafter. At the age of twenty-two years he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Filley township, and there he continued his operations until after the death of his father, when he purchased and returned to the old homestead farm on which he was born and reared, the fine old place being endeared to him by many gracious memories and associations. He accords allegiance to the Republican party, is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and he and his wife are members of the Christian church in the village of Filley.

On the 21st of December, 1899, Mr. Tilton wedded Miss Grace Clark, who was born at Mansfield, Ohio, and whose parents, Jacob and Jennie Clark, are now residents of the state of California. Mr. and Mrs. Tilton have an interesting family of seven children — Cloyd, Merl, Pearl, Ruth, Clarence, Marie, and Thelma.

FRANCIS A. MILLER, residing at 620 North Sixth street, Beatrice, is an influential business man and citizen who is descended from a long line of colonial and Revolutionary ancestry which reaches back into the earliest history of our nation. The individual branches have entwined themselves into the web and woof of our nation, having taken active part in public affairs of a civil nature, as well as in the wars which have been fought during the development of our country from its earliest colonizing period to the present. Mr. Miller is of the tenth generation in descent from John Thurston, who, with his wife, Margaret, came to Dedham, Massachusetts, May 10, 1637, from Wrentham, Suffolk county, England, said John Thurston having been baptized in that town, January 13, 1601. Mr. Miller is a product of English, Scotch, and Irish descent. His grandfather, Abijah Thurston Miller, eighth generation, married, on January 1, 1721, Betsey Lermond, daughter of John and Nancy (Burd) Lermond. Nancy Burd was born in 1772, on Fox Island, her father having emigrated from Scotland, and having been killed by Indians, in 1776. Vina Thurston, seventh generation, married, December 19, 1793, Jesse Miller, whose mother was Thankful Gilmore, of Irish descent. One of their children was Abijah Thurston Miller, referred to above.

Horace Miller, father of the subject of this sketch, was born October 16, 1834, on a New England farm, near Whitefield, Maine. At different times he followed the vocation of farming, learned the trade of a cooper, taught school, mined in California, in which, at that time, far remote region he was residing during the progress of the Civil war. He was for many years a Methodist local preacher. He married Olive Chase Fuller, October 12, 1870, at McMinville, Tennessee, they having been schoolmates while attending Kents Hill Academy. While living in Cumberland county, Tennessee, four children were born to them, namely: Francis A., the eldest; Edna L., wife of Robert Stratford, residing in Beatrice, and being engaged in the jewelry business; Julius Gilmore, who lost his life while serving his country as a member of Company C, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, his death occurring at Honolulu, Hawaii, while he was en route to the Philippines; Howard V., who graduated from Wesleyan University, University Place, Nebraska, in 1918.

The mother of this family was born in New Sharon, Maine, June 2, 1835. Her great-grandfather, Elisha Fuller, and his son, Aaron Fuller (I), each served his country with credit during the Revolutionary war. Her father, Aaron Fuller II, turned out as member of militia during the War of 1812, doing guard duty at Portland, Maine. He also was a Methodist minister, during those early times when that arduous religious duty required the traveling of a circuit, and he was a well known and valuable citizen of his times. Much of the time when his family of eight children was growing to maturity, his home was at North Livermore, Maine, where he combined the occupations of farmer and minister. Miss Fuller received her education in the public schools of her native state, and at Kents Hill Academy, Kents Hill, Maine. She was for a number of years a successful teacher in

Maine, and later in Illinois. In her early years she united with the Methodist church, in which she retained her membership throughout a long and active life. She was at all times an active and persistent student of both the religious and political affairs of the country, and was always able to discuss these affairs with a keen intelligence. She retained to the full this faculty until her demise, which occurred at Arapahoe, Nebraska, March 23, 1915, she then being in her eightieth year.

Francis A. Miller, named in honor of the first Methodist bishop, Francis Asbury, was born April 26, 1872, near Howard Springs, Cumberland county, Tennessee. His attendance at school there was limited, but fortunately his father and mother made good that defect, and when, at the age of ten years, he removed with them to Sandwich, Illinois, he was able to take the place in the public schools to which his age would entitle him. When he was thirteen years of age, in 1885, his parents removed to Arapahoe, Furnas county, Nebraska, where his schooling was finished by his graduation from the high school, at the age of sixteen years. September 30, 1890, he came to Beatrice, where he has since resided. He worked at his trade as a printer for seven years, clerked in a grocery store nearly four years, later engaging in the business successfully on his own account, beginning December 5, 1900, and continuing to the present time.

November 20, 1895, Mr. Miller married Nellie Robbins, who was born at Dwight, Illinois, a daughter of William H. and Carrie (Horton) Robbins. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Robbins was solemnized September 13, 1870, at Poughkeepsie, New York. William H. Robbins was born in Saratoga county, New York, January 14, 1844, a son of Richard Robbins, who was born in England, January 12, 1805, and Sarah (Deth) Robbins, who was born in England, June 7, 1809. Mrs. Carrie Robbins was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, a daughter of Smith Horton and Mary (Riggs) Horton, who were married in Fishkill, New York, September 4, 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins made their home in Dwight, Illinois, later removing to Steele City, Nebraska, and in 1884 he engaged in business in Beatrice. Mr. Robbins was a territorial pioneer of Nebraska, having engaged in freighting across the plains before the railroads were across the state of Iowa.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, and they have all received their education in the public schools of Beatrice, and are, as they graduate, supplementing this with advanced work in higher places of learning. Dorothy Robbins, a graduate of the Beatrice high school, class of 1914, was graduated in 1918 from Doane College, Crete, Nebraska, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Horace Gilmore Miller, of the class of 1917, Beatrice high school, is a member of the 1921 class at Doane College. Lermond Horton Miller is a member of the 1920 class of the Beatrice high school, and Ruth Eleanor Miller attends the sixth grade of the Beatrice public schools.

Mr. Miller has at all times taken an active interest in matters of a public nature, never, however, having been a candidate for public office, except to serve as member of the school board for four years, 1914-1918, during two years of which time he was president of the board. He was a member of the building committee and served for a period of seven years on the board of directors of the Mary Young Men's Christian Association, when it was first organized. With his family he is a member of the First Congregational church, and he has in turn been trustee and treasurer of that organization. He states his politics as being progressive Republican, is a member of Beatrice Lodge, No. 26, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, and the Nebraska Society Sons of the American Revolution. During the present war he is active in what has been termed "the third line of defense," serving on various committees, assisting in the food administration, being a member of the Home Guards, and keeping himself generally useful.

DELL B. COLGROVE is a native son of Gage county and is successfully operating a farm of seven hundred and ten acres in Paddock township. He was born in this township, March 3, 1890, a son of James F. and Eliza-

beth (With) Colgrove, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Dell B. Colgrove was reared on his father's farm in Paddock township, attended the public schools, and when old enough assisted his father in the operation of the farm. He came into possession of four hundred and seventy acres of the estate and has recently purchased the two hundred and forty acres where his father settled when he came to the county, in 1878. He is one of the extensive stock farmers of the county, the only son in the family who carries on stock farming in much the same manner as did his father.

Mr. Colgrove married Miss Celia Etta Whitton, who was born in Gage county, a daughter of the late Richard Whitton, an early settler of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Colgrove have two children, Eugene and Thelma. A third child, Beulah, is deceased.

BENJAMIN A. BRUBAKER, who has prestige as one of the substantial farmers of Rockford township, is here the owner of a well improved landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Sections 16, 21, and 22, and his is the further distinction of being a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of Gage county, which has been his home since he was a youth of sixteen years.

Mr. Brubaker was born in Greene county, Tennessee, September 2, 1863, and is a son of Peter and Delilah (Watenbarger) Brubaker, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Tennessee. Peter Brubaker was ten years old at the time of the family removal to Tennessee, where he was reared and educated and where his marriage was solemnized. There he continued his activities as a farmer until 1879, when he came with his family to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. For the first year he rented land near the village of Dewitt and he then purchased eighty acres in Rockford township where he developed a productive farm. After he had attained to advanced age he lived for some time in the village of Holmesville, but he passed the closing period of his long and useful life in the home of his son Benjamin, of this review. He was seventy-three years of age at the time of his death and his widow attained to the venerable age of eighty-two years, she having been one of the revered pioneer women of the county at the time of her demise: both were most earnest members of the Brethren, or Dunkard, church, and Henry Brubaker, a brother of Peter, was the founder of the church of this denomination in Gage county, where he established his home in 1876 and where he did much to foster the development of the very appreciable and valued Dunkard colony that has been representative in social and industrial development in the county. The subject of this review is the youngest in a family of seven children; Susan is the wife of Noah Wrightsman, who is mentioned on other pages; Mary became the wife of William H. Root and was a resident of this county at the time of her death; Martha is the wife of George A. Hill and they reside in the state of Kansas; Henry D. is a farmer in that state; John was a resident of Gage county at the time of his death, which resulted from injuries received when he was kicked by a mule.

Benjamin A. Brubaker passed the period of his childhood and youth on his father's farm in Tennessee, was afforded the advantages of the district schools and was a lad of sixteen years at the time of the family removal to Gage county, in 1879. He here continued to be associated with the activities of his father's farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-one years, when he purchased a farm near Blue Springs. He made good improvements on this place and there continued his residence four years, at the expiration of which he purchased his father's farm, where he made a home for his venerable parents until the close of their lives, according to them the filial solicitude that was so essentially their due. He has since added to the area of his farm estate, which now comprises three hundred and twenty acres and gives every evidence of thrift and prosperity.

Mr. Brubaker has given efficient service as a member of the school board of his district and has otherwise shown loyal interest in com-

munity affairs, his political support being given to the Republican party and both he and his wife being active members of the Church of the Brethren.

In 1890, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Brubaker to Miss Sarah McPheron, who was born in Tennessee and whose father, James M McPheron, is now a resident of Holmesville, Gage county. Mr. and Mrs.. Brubaker have six children, all of whom remain at the parental home except the eldest, Anna, who is the wife of David M. Frantz, a successful farmer in Rockford township. The children of the parental home circle are John, May, (wife of Roy Shaffer), Florence, Ray, and Lois.

JAMES F. COLGROVE. — One of the earliest settlers on what was formerly the Otoe Indian reservation was James F. Colgrove, who came to Gage county in 1878 and who for many years was one of its substantial farmers and stock men. He was born in Steuben county, New York, July 31, 1853, a son of Andrew and Almira (Baxter) Colgrove, natives of New York state. The parents of Mr. Colgrove lived at different time in Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois, and their last days were spent at Marysville, Kansas.

James F. Colgrove received his education in the various states where his parents lived, and was the third in a family of nine children. He came to Gage county in 1878 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Paddock and Sicily townships. This land was wholly unimproved, as it had been but recently opened for settlement and had been a part of the Otoe Indian reservation. Without capital, but with that perseverance and ambition which always augur for success, Mr. Colgrove became one of the extensive land-owners and stock men of the county. He owned more than two thousand acres in Gage county, besides land in Oklahoma and Texas. He has lived retired for several years, and is making his home at the present time in Oklahoma.

April 16, 1874, Mr. Colgrove married Miss Mary With, a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (Clark) With. Mr. and Mrs. Colgrove became the parents of the following children: John W. married Della Smith and resides at Linn, Kansas; Willie M. was killed in a runaway accident at Wymore, when eleven years of age; James A. is a farmer near Barneston, Gage county; Charles H. married Lena Fisher and resides in Washington county, Kansas; Edward F. is a farmer in Paddock township; Elizabeth A. died in infancy; Elmer L. married Myrtle Burdette, and resides in Texas; Dell B. is individually mentioned on other pages; and Nell J., is the wife of Owen Brown, of Linn, Kansas.

LYSANDER H. BARDWELL. — The record of this gentleman furnishes a forcible illustration of the power of industry and self-reliance, he having risen by successive steps from moderate circumstances to his present position of affluence. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, October 7, 1844, a son of Orren Bardwell, who was a native of Massachuetts and when ten years of age was taken by his parents to New York state. Here he was reared and became a successful farmer. He passed away in that state, at the age of ninety-three years. The mother of our subject was in her maidenhood Arvilla Bostwick, a native of New York. She died at the age of thirty-five years. The paternal grand-parents were natives of Massachuetts. They were Zenus and Polly Bardwell. The latter lived to the age of one hundred and one years.

Lysander Holland Bardwell grew to manhood in New York state, and at the age of twenty-four years came west and established a home in Holt county Missouri, where he farmed for seven years. In 1878 he became a pioneer settler of Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Paddock township. This land had but recently been opened for settlement, having been part of the Otoe Indian reservation. Mr. Bradwell built his first house by setting poles in the ground and fastening boards to them, with one door and one window. The roof was made of boards with

strips of paper to cover the cracks. In this house the family lived the first winter. The stable was built in much the same manner, the roof being thatched with grass cut from the prairie in the month of January. Water was obtained by cutting through the ice on the creek, for household use and stock. At that time corn was selling for fifteen cents a bushel, and to provide for his family Mr. Bardwell would go to the settlement north of him and husk corn, receiving as his pay every seventh bushel. He at one time cut and traded half a cord of wood for a half-gallon of syrup, a little sugar and a package of soda. His nearest neighbor was five or six miles away, and there was only one or two houses between his farm Beatrice.

Mr. Bardwell was united in marriage to Miss Clara Rice, who like himself was born in Onondaga county, New York. She was one of the pioneer women of Paddock township, and that first winter, while living in that primitive dwelling, she was called to her final rest. Mr. Bardwell was left with four children, the youngest but a few weeks old. Two years after his wife's death he married a widow, a sister of L. S. Austin, one of the early settlers of Sicily township. She passed away some years ago.

As the years passed and his financial resources increased, Mr. Bardwell added to his original purchase and to-day he is the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, well improved,—a worthy monument to his unfaltering zeal. His children are four in number: Leroy is married and living in Oklahoma; Frank is married and, with a family of four children, lives in Middleton, Idaho; Ezra, with his wife and three children, resides in Tabor, Iowa. The fourth child, bereft of its mother when a few weeks old, was adopted into the family of L. S. Austin, and is known as Orren Emory Austin; he lives in Dakota.

Mr. Bardwell is one of the few remaining real early settlers of Paddock township. He has done his share to bring about present day conditions, and will soon leave the farm to enjoy a well earned rest, and will make his home in Odell, Nebraska.

GEORGE F. MILLER is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Section 5 Highland township, and is one of the energetic and successful agriculturists and stock-growers of this part of the county. In addition to this homestead farm he owns also a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Kearney county. Mr. Miller was born in Lancaster county, Nebraska, July 2, 1879, a son of Fritz and Anna (Hempke) Miller, he being the second eldest of the four surviving members of the family of children; Theodore is a successful farmer in Kearney county; Mrs. Anna Menner resides at Dorchester, Illinois; and Laura maintains her home in Kearney county.

Fritz Miller was born in Germany, in 1836, and was a young man when he immigrated to the United States and found employment as a farm workman in Illinois. Later he gained pioneer experience in Iowa, where he worked on the farm of an Irishman and where he gained his first colloquial use of the English language, which he had previously been unable to speak. In Iowa he met and married Miss Anna Hempke, who was born in Germany, in 1842, and came to America when young. In 1878 Fritz Miller numbered himself among the pioneers of Lancaster county, Nebraska, where for the ensuing seventeen years he was engaged in farming, his farm having been one-third of a mile north of Hickman. He then removed with his family to Kearney county, where he improved a good farm and where his death occurred in 1898, his widow having survived him by a decade and having passed away in 1908.

George F. Miller early gained full fellowship with arduous toil, as he was a mere boy when he began to assist his father in the work of the home farm, the while he availed himself as fully as possible of the advantages afforded in the district schools. In 1905 he rented land from his widowed mother, in Kearney county, and initiated his independent activities as a farmer. Energy and close application brought tangible returns and his success increased from year to year. On the 5th of March, 1914, Mr. Miller purchased of Wil-

liam Wagner his present farm in Gage county, the place having been well improved but having received under his control further improvements of substantial order, including the erection of an excellent modern barn that is fifty-two by fifty-four feet in lateral dimensions. Mr. Miller is vigorous and resourceful in all departments of farm enterprise, maintains his land under effective cultivation and is a successful grower of short-horn Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine. He has won advancement through his own well directed industry and has placed himself in secure status as one of the successful exponents of farm industry in his native state. He has had no desire for public office, is independent in politics and is liberal in support of measures projected for the communal welfare. He and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church.

On the 18th of February, 1905, Mr. Miller married Miss Lizzie Scheneman, who was born in Germany, on the 9th of November, 1879, and who was a child at the time when the family home was established in Gage county, Nebraska, she being a daughter of Gottfried and Anna Scheneman. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have three children, — Ernest, Viola and Ruby.

WILLIAM RIGGERT is one of the successful and up-to-date farmers of Glenwood township, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 24th of January, 1869. His parents, John and Dora (Maas) Riggert, were likewise natives of Hanover, Germany, in which country they passed their entire lives. They were the parents of six children, five of whom are living. William of this review and his sister, Mrs. Herman Dunker, of Lundell, Kansas, are the only representatives of the immediate family who are living in America.

William Riggert was a young man of seventeen years when he came to the United States, and for six years thereafter he found employment as a hired man on a farm. During this time he carefully saved his earnings and finally he began farming for himself. He rented land for four years, and for twenty-one years he has owned and cultivated his present farm, which is equipped with a good set of buildings, all of which have been put on the place by its present owner.

For a companion and helpmeet, Mr. Riggert married Miss Mary Loemker, a native of Washington county, Kansas, a record of the family being found on other pages, in a sketch of Ernst Loemker, a farmer of Paddock township. Mr. and Mrs. Riggert have one child, Raymond. Their religious faith is expressed by membership in the Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Riggert is a Republican. Though he has never aspired to public office he is serving efficiently as moderator of his school district.

Coming to America with no capital except a willingness to work and a determination to own a home of his own, so characteristic of his race, Mr. Riggert has every reason to be proud of his record, for to-day he is one of the substantial men of Gage county.

FREDERICK L. ROOT is consistently to be designated as one of the representative farmers of the younger generation in his native county and is conducting his operations on a part of the old homestead on which he was born, in Section 36 Rockford township, where he received eighty acres from his father's estate and has since added by the purchase of an adjoining tract of equal area. He was born on the 26th of September, 1881, and is a son of the late William H. Root, an honored pioneer to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work. The subject of this review was reared on the farm which is now his home and is indebted to the public schools for his early education. He has never had desire to sever his association with farm enterprise and is making himself known as a progressive and successful agriculturist and stock-raiser.

In 1906 Mr. Root married Miss Ida Falwell, who likewise was born and reared in this county, and they have four children, — Ruth, Marion, Addie and Gertrude.

GILBERT R. SHELLEY is one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the younger generation in his native county and is giving his attention to the management of the fine old homestead farm of four hundred acres, in Section 19, Rockford township, which was the place of his birth, the date of his nativity having been December 17, 1888. He is a son of James W. Shelley and a brother of Frank R. Shelley, owner and executive head of the Beatrice Business College, a sketch of the latter's career being offered on other pages, with due incidental record concerning the family history, so that a repetition of the data is not here demanded. Gilbert Shelley gained his initial experience of practical order in connection with the work of the farm which is now his home, and in the meanwhile he made good use of the advantages afforded in the public schools of his native county. He remained at the parental home until he had attained to his legal majority and for seven years thereafter he conducted farming operations on land which he leased. In 1916 he assumed control of the landed estate of his father and he is directing his energies specially to making the place a thoroughly modern and scientific stock farm, his energy and progressiveness offering assurance of cumulative success in this important field of industrial enterprise. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1910 Mr. Shelley wedded Miss Bessie Kennedy, who likewise was born and reared in this county, and they have a winsome little daughter, Geraldine.

FRED H. TURNER, who is engaged in general farm enterprise in Sicily township, is operating one hundred and twenty acres of land, this farm having been the home of the Turner family since pioneer days in Gage county.

Mr. Turner was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, August 20, 1870, and is a son of the late Alva Turner, of whom further mention is made in a biography prepared for William R. McKinley, of Beatrice, a half-brother of the subject of this sketch. Fred H. Turner was only a boy when the family home was established in Gage county and amid the pioneer conditions he was reared to young manhood on the farm which is now his home. When a young man he spent four years in Colorado and Wyoming at a "cattle puncher." Returning to Gage county, he took up the occupation to which he had been reared and for several years he has successfully operated the home farm.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Turner married Miss Effie Floyd, a native of Gage county, and they have become the parents of three children: Floyd H., Fern and May. Mrs. Turner is a member of the United Brethern church.

Mr. Turner is a Republican in politics, but the emoluments of public office have had no attraction for him, as he has preferred to devote his time and energy to his private industrial and business affairs. He has been an eye-witness of the vast changes that have taken place in Gage county and this, together with the fact that the Turner family has contributed its share to the development of the community, makes a publication of this order of especial interest to him and his family. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, of which latter he has been a member for twenty-seven years.

JOHN SCHEIDELER was a pioneer farmer in Paddock township, and contributed his share to the upbuilding of Gage county,—a sterling citizen to whom a tribute should be given in this history. Mr. Scheideler was born in Westphalia, Germany, July 8, 1847, and as a soldier he did valiant service for his native land in her war with France in 1866. Soon after this he came to the United States, working in New York for a time. He then came west and located in Waukesha county, Wisconsin. In 1879 he became a resident of Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in Section 14, Paddock township. He

immediately began the improvement of the place. His first abode, — that in which all of his children were born — was a rock house which still stands. In 1882 he returned to Wisconsin and was united in marriage to Miss Anna Loibl, who was born at Eagle, that state, October 31, 1860. She came with her husband to the pioneer home in Gage county, and as the years passed she assisted him in the development of the farm. To this worthy couple were born nine children, as follows: Catherine is the wife of Alfred Barnes, a railroad man residing at Norfolk, Nebraska; Edward is a farmer in Gage county; Anton is a business man of Wymore, this county, and at the present time (1918) is a member of the county board of supervisors; John is a farmer in Gage county; Herbert is in the national army and is now a corporal in his company, located at Salt Lake City, Utah; Henry is, at the time of this writing, about to enter the aviation school of the United States army at Chicago; Albert and Carl are at home; Mary, the youngest, is the wife of Clay Cole, manager of the Kriter elevator in Paddock township. The father of these children, after a useful life, passed away January 21, 1907, on the farm where he had lived twenty-eight years.

Mr. Scheideler came west in search of health and while he found this climate better than Wisconsin or Iowa, yet he was never a really healthy man. He and his wife, by diligence and careful management, developed a valuable farm from the virgin prairie where they cast in their lot with the early settlers on the Indian reservation. A commodius frame house had just been completed on the farm when Mr. Scheideler was called to his final rest. His widow occupies the home and delights in recounting experiences of the early days, including the hardships and pleasures incidental to rearing her children. Her family is one of which she may well be proud. The husband and father was a loyal citizen of his native land and their boys have been quick to respond when the nation is endangered and their services are needed to defend the country. The members of this family are communicants of the Catholic church. John Scheildeler will always be remembered as a loving father, a faithful husband, an honorable citizen and a loyal friend.

S. E. GIDDINGS was a lad of twelve years when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, in 1874, and he figures as a scion of one of the specially well known and highly honored pioneer families of Gage county, where his father achieved large success in connection with farm enterprise, as will be noted in the memoir dedicated to him — the late Harvey W. Giddings — on other pages of this work. He whose name initiates this paragraph was long numbered among the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the county and is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, where he has an attractive residence and where he finds activity and profit in the management of his well equipped feed yard, which is supplied with excellent sheds and is largely used by farmers visiting the city, three city lots being owned by Mr. Giddings.

Mr. Giddings was born in Warren county, Illinois, on the 28th of July, 1862, and is a son of Harvey W. and Rebecca E. (McClure) Giddings, both of whom passed the closing years of their lives in Gage county, adequate record concerning the family being given in the previously mentioned memoir, dedicated to Harvey W. Giddings. The subject of this review was fourteen years old when the family home was established in Gage county, and here he received the advantages of the district schools, as well as of the Beatrice high school. From his boyhood he was closely associated with his father's agricultural and dairying enterprise, conducted on an extensive scale, and in Filley township he is still the owner of a finely improved and valuable farm estate of two hundred and twenty-seven acres. Here he conducted a substantial and prosperous business as an agriculturist and stock-grower, with his live-stock enterprise carried on in an extensive way, and he made excellent building improvements on his model farm, to which he still gives his personal supervision, as he has not found it expedient to rent the prop-

erty and has placed the same in charge of a capable man whom he employs by the year. Mr. Giddings remained on the farm until 1908, when he removed with his family to Beatrice, where he has since maintained his residence, — a citizen who is well known in the county and whose circle of friends is coincident with that of his acquaintances.

The year 1888 recorded the marriage of Mr. Giddings to Miss Mollie Pilcher, who likewise was born in the state of Illinois, and whose death occurred in August of the following year. Mollie, the one child of this union, is now the wife of John Rae, a representative business man of Sterling, Colorado. In 1891 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Giddings to Miss Clara Hollingworth, who was born and reared in Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Giddings had three children: Harold is a soldier in the national army, as a member of Company C, Fifth United States Infantry, stationed at the time of this writing (spring of 1918) on the Mexican border. His early education included a course in a business college and he is twenty-four years of age. Katherine, who was graduated in the Beatrice high school and was for two years a student in Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away December 4, 1917; Oliver H. is a student in the Beatrice high school.

In politics Mr. Giddings is a staunch Republican, and he is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and the Modern Woodmen of America, his wife being identified with the Royal Neighbors and both being active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOSIAH YOUNG, who is one of the representative exponents of farm industry in Lincoln township, was born in Clinton county, Iowa, December 20, 1864, — a date that clearly indicates that he is a scion of a pioneer family of the Hawkeye state. He is a son of Josiah and Mary Ann (Corbin) Young His father was born in Connecticut, on the 20th of July, 1823, and as a young man he found employment in the woolen mills in the state of Rhode Island. In 1854 Josiah Young, Sr., numbered himself among the pioneers of Iowa, where he obtained land and turned his attention to farm enterprise. His marriage to Miss Mary Ann Corbin was solemnized May 23, 1854, and she shared with him in the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life in Iowa. They became the parents of six children, of whom four are living, — William H., of Prescott, Iowa; Emily, wife of Charles Smith, of Hiawatha, Kansas; Josephine, wife of Ransom Leonard, of Holstein, Iowa; and Josiah, Jr., the immediate subject of this review.

Mrs. Mary Ann (Corbin) Young had three brothers who gave valiant service as soldiers of the Union in the Civil war. These loyal men were William, Royal and Charles Corbin, all of whom enlisted at the outbreak of the war and all of whom served until its close.

He whose name initiates this article was reared and educated in Iowa, and there he eventually instituted his independent career as a farmer. He rented land about ten years and then, in 1891, he there purchased forty acres of land, upon which he made good improvements. He later sold this property at a distinct financial profit, and in 1905 he came to Gage county, Nebraska and purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Lincoln township. Here he is meeting with merited success in his farm enterprise and he is one of the valued citizens of his community.

In politics Mr. Young is a Democrat, but since coming to Nebraska he has never desired or held public office of any kind, as he has preferred to give his undivided time and attention to the management of his farm and business affairs. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity while still a resident of Iowa, and he now maintains his Masonic affiliation in the city of Beatrice. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church. Since establishing his home on his present farm Mr. Young has shown his enterprise and progressiveness by erecting on the same good buildings, including an attractive residence.

November 20, 1888, recorded the marriage

MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY W. SNYDER

of Mr. Young to Miss Edith Wilson, daughter of William R. Wilson, of Prescott, Iowa. Of the children of this union Ralph H. and Mary Edith died in infancy; Blanche, who was born October 26, 1889, is the wife of C. S. Weigle, of Gage county; Josiah R. was born December 22, 1891; Jesse O., who was born April 14, 1896, and Charles R., who was born March 15, 1899 are showing their patriotism under the present conditions of warfare by serving as members of the United States navy; and Harry L. was born February 11, 1907.

ANTHONY W. SNYDER. — Years of toil and industry enable the subject of this record to spend the declining years of his life in honorable retirement, surrounded with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of the present day. Mr. Snyder was born at Dayton, Ohio, August 27, 1837. He is a son of Eli and Barbara (Manning) Snyder, the former born at Baltimore, Maryland, January 4, 1808, and the latter at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1811. The father died in 1885, and the mother was called to her final rest in 1891.

Anthony W. Snyder was reared on a farm and secured the advantages of the common schools. When the Civil war threatened to disrupt the Union he volunteered for one hundred days' service, enlisting in April, 1861, in Company G, Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. At the expiration of his term of service he returned home and engaged in farming, in Miami county, Ohio. In 1870 Mr. Snyder came to Nebraska and located in Gage county. Here he leased land in Adams township for several years. In 1891 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Section 33, that township, and this property he still owns. He is the owner also of one hundred and sixty acres in Sherman county, Kansas, and for years was engaged in farming in that state. Returning to Gage county, Nebraska, he successfully conducted his farming interests until 1907, when he laid aside the active work of the fields and retired to Adams.

February 26, 1863, recorded the marriage of Mr. Snyder to Miss Christina Van Dusen, who was born in Connecticut, December 26, 1841, her parents, Edward and Marie (Bevins) Van Dusen, having spent their entire lives in Connecticut.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder has been blessed with eight children: Charles and Joseph E. reside in Dewey county, Oklahoma; Hattie is the wife of Daniel Dellahant, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Harry is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Lancaster county, Nebraska; Richard operates the home farm in Adams township; William F. resides in Dewey county, Oklahoma; Nellie is the wife of W. C. Silvernail, of Phillips, Nebraska; and Myrtle is the wife of A. P. Wiar, of Adams.

In politics Mr. Snyder is non-partisan, voting for men and measures he considers best. In 1903 he was elected a member of the county board of supervisors, on the Democratic ticket, and in this office he served one term. He keeps in touch with his old comrades by membership in Sargeant Cox Post, No. 100, Grand Army of the Republic, at Adams.

Forty-eight years have passed since Mr. Snyder cast in his lot with Gage county, Nebraska, and in all those years he has always been faithful to every duty and trust. He merits most fully this recognition in the historical records of his adopted county.

GEORGE E. HORRUM. — Fifty years have come and gone since the subject of this record came to Gage county. He was born October 20, 1859, at Manchester, Indiana, and is a son of L. R. and Elsie (Sayers) Horrum. L. R. Horrum was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, June 28, 1830. As a boy and youth he learned the trade of harnessmaking, and he followed this trade at Manchester, Indiana, until 1867, when he located at Sterling, Illinois. Residing there one year, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1868, the year after the admission of Nebraska to statehood, and thereafter he farmed in Adams township until 1883, when he again took up the trade he had learned in his youth. In this line of business he continued until his death, which occurred September 18, 1913. Mrs. Elsie (Sayers) Horrum was born at Oxford, Ohio, March 19.

1833, a daughter of Dr. Sayers, who later removed to Manchester, Indiana. The paternal grandfather of George E. Horrum was Daniel Horrum, who was a native of Vermont and who located in Dearborn county, Indiana at an early date, he having been a pioneer farmer of that county and having devoted his entire active career to the basic industry of agriculture.

George E. Horrum came to Nebraska with his parents in 1868, and attended the pioneer district schools of Gage county in the acquirement of his youthful education. On reaching man's estate he chose the occupation to which he had been reared, and he continued to follow farm enterprise until 1892, when he established his residence at Adams, this county, where he has since been successfully engaged in the harness buusiness.

On September 20, 1883, George E. Horrum was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Bryson, a daughter of Silas Bryson, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Horrum are the parents of two children: Pet is the wife of W. H. Coleman, superintendent of schools at Crawford, Nebraska; and Clara is the wife of William Pittam, of Savoy, Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Horrum are members of the Methodist Epicopal church, in which they take a commendable interest. In politics Mr. Horrum is a Republican and fraternally he is affiliated with the Adams lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. Mr. Horrum has lived to see many changes in Gage county since he came here as a lad of ten years, and he has done his full share to bring about the present high state of development.

WILLIAM H. MILLER. — A worthy representative of the agricultural and financial interests of Gage county is the gentleman whose name introduces this record. A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Miller was born at White Haven, Carbon county, May 8, 1858. His parents, William M. and Martha (Stiver) Miller, were likewise natives of the Keystone state, the former having been born September 26, 1826, and the birth of his wife having occurred December 25, 1826. They became residents of Illinois in 1869 and both passed the remainder of their lives in that state. The death of the father occurred October 12, 1901, and that of the mother in 1883.

William H. Miller was reared on a farm in Illinois and acquired his education in the public schools. He was engaged in farming in the Prairie state until 1884, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased land in Nemaha township. In 1900 he removed to his present fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Lincoln township, where he has made good improvements and is meeting with success in his undertakings.

Mr. Miller made complete the arrangements for a home by his marriage, May 25, 1882, to Miss Emma Frazier, a daughter of Louis and Elizabeth Frazier, of Illinois. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Miller has been blessed by the birth of six children: James Leroy is a farmer near Ellis; Linda May is the wife of W. F. Walsh, of Omaha; Amy is the wife of John Fitzgerald, of Omaha; Raymond F. lives in Lincoln township; Guy G. is at the parental home; and Orin R. runs a store at Ellis.

In 1907 Mr. Miller assisted in the organization of the Ellis State Bank, and later he became president of the same, a position in which he served three years. He is still a stockholder and director of this flourishing institution. He exercises his right of franchise by supporting men and measures for which the Republican party stands sponsor, and while he has had no ambition for public office his civic loyalty was shown in three years of most effective service in the position of treasurer of his township. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife are members of the Royal Neighbors. Mr. Miller has given close attention to his various industrial and business interests and is one of the substantial and valued citizens of Lincoln township.

GEORGE H. JONES was one of the honored pioneers who won individual success and furthered industrial and civic advancement through his association with farm enterprise

in Gage county, and it is most fitting that in this history be entered a tribute to his memory. He was born near Bangor, Maine, December 23, 1847, a son of Cyrus Jones, and in his character and achievement he showed forth the sterling traits that have so significantly marked the sons of New England. His father likewise was a native of the old Pine Tree state and was a scion of a family that was founded in New England in the colonial era, the lineage being traced to staunch Welsh origin. At the age of eleven years George H. Jones came with his widowed mother to the west and the home was established near Dixon, Illinois, where he was reared to manhood on a pioneer farm. As a young man he went to Jones county, Iowa, where he amplified his pioneer experience as an agriculturist, and where his marriage was solemnized in 1867. Thereafter he continued to be concerned with farming at intervals in Iowa and at others in Illinois, until 1872, when he came with his family to Nebraska and took up a homestead of eighty acres in Section 30, Highland township, Gage county. Here he continued his activities as a progressive and successful farmer until 1888, when he removed to the village of Cortland and engaged in the general merchandise business. There he continued successfully in this line of enterprise until his death, which occurred August 22, 1910. His well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres is that of which his son Cyrus P. now has the management and of this son, as well as of the elder son, Frank W., specific mention is made on other pages of this volume.

Mr. Jones was a man of high standing in the community and did well his part in furthering the general advancement of Gage county along both civic and material lines. His political support was given to the Republican party, he was affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and at the time of his death he was a deacon of the Congregational church at Cortland, where his widow, likewise a devoted member, still maintains her home.

December 25, 1867, recorded the marriage of Mr. Jones to Miss Augusta J. Whitcomb, who was born near Meshoppen, Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1847, a daughter of George P. and Christina (Kintner) Whitcomb. Mr. Whitcomb was born in Massachusetts, March 17, 1816, and was one of the honored pioneers and prosperous farmers of Gage county at the time of his death, in 1873. His wife was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1826, and she passed the closing years of her life at Beatrice, Gage county, Nebraska, where she died in 1901. The parents of Mrs. Jones came to this county and settled on a homestead of eighty acres, one and one-half miles southwest of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Jones became the parents of seven children, of whom four survive the honored father: Frank W. is represented on other pages; Elva is the wife of James E. McCormick, of Clatonia; Cyrus P. has charge of the old homestead farm; and Verna remains with her widowed mother in their attractive home at Cortland.

CYRUS HOUGHTON, a retired farmer, residing at Blue Springs, was born in Will county, Illinois, November 18, 1853, and is a son of Rudolphus and Sarah (Capron) Houghton, who came to Illinois when Chicago was only a small city, and at a very low figure he was offered land on which a part of the city now stands. This land he refused to purchase, as it was too marshy for farming purposes. Mr. Houghton then went to Will county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming and where he died in 1869, his wife having passed away several years previously.

Cyrus Houghton was but sixteen years of age at the time of his father's death and was left with very little means. He managed to purchase a team of horses and began teaming, —first in Gilman and later in Paxton and other towns in Illinois. Mr. Houghton finally bought forty acres of land in Will county, where he farmed for some time. Being in poor health, he was advised by his physician to go west. He disposed of his interests in Illinois and started for Beatrice, Nebraska, where he spent the winter. The following spring Mr. Houghton determined to remain in

Nebraska and bought eighty acres of land on Section 34, Rockford township, Gage county, on which was built a shanty twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions with a dirt-covered log addition. This he afterward replaced with a frame building, and in later years he built a still better house, as well as other good farm buildings. He later bought an additional eighty acres of land, adjoining that of his first purchase and here he continued farming for many years. He and his family saw some very hard times in the early pioneer days, owing to drought several years in succession, and it took a good deal of determination and struggle to pull through.

In 1916 Mr. Houghton left the farm and after spending some time in Biloxi, Mississippi, he returned to Gage county, in June, 1917. Here he has since lived, making his home in Blue Springs, where he owns a comfortable residence.

Cyrus Houghton was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Jones, of Will county, Illinois, she being a daughter of David and Mary Jones. To this unoin was born three children: Belle is the wife of Levi Miller, of Beatrice; Pearl is the wife of Clarence Jones, of Holmesville, this county; and Ralph D. has the management of the home farm, in Rockford township. Mr. and Mrs. Houghton are members of the Methodist church, and in politics he is a Republican. He is also an ardent advocate of the prohibition movement.

ERNST H. SPILKER. — The vital energy and good judgment which Mr. Spilker has applied in connection with farm industry have made him one of the specially successful representatives of this important line of enterprise in Gage county, and he is the owner of a valuable landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Section 12, Grant township, eighty acres of his well improved farm property being situated just to the south of the corporate limits of the village of Dewitt, Saline county.

Mr. Spilker was born in the fine old province of Westphalia, Germany, on the 11th of December, 1873, and is the youngest of the eight children born to Henry A. and Louisa (Fromme) Spilker. The eldest of the children, Karl, died in Germany; William is another of the prosperous farmers of Grant township; Frederick died when about fifty-five years of age; Louisa is the wife of Henry Damkroger, of Holt township; Carolena is the wife of Henry Bergmyer, of Grant township; Henry died when about thirty years of age; Christian is a resident of Holt county, this state.

Henry A. Spilker, a member of a family established for many generations in Westphalia, Germany, was born February 3, 1828, and his death occurred October 14, 1906. His wife was born February 18, 1831, and passed to the life eternal on the 19th of May, 1910. In 1883 Henry A. Spilker, accompanied by his wife and their four children, came from Germany to America and forthwith made his way to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased, at the rate of thirty dollars an acre, the present fine homestead farm of his son Ernst H., of this review. Minor improvements had been made on the property, and with characteristic thrift and discrimination he carried forward the development of the farm, upon which he eventually erected modern buildings, besides setting out trees, and also planted one-half of an acre with catalpa seeds, one hundred trees which now average fully thirty feet in height. Mr. Spilker was a man of indomitable energy and with the aid of his devoted wife and his sons and daughter he made his old homestead one of the model farms of Gage county. He achieved substantial prosperity and manifested his paternal loyalty and stewardship by assisting each of his children to gain a good start in life upon reaching maturity, though to compass this end he was at times compelled to borrow the requisite money. Sturdy and unassuming, he made his life count in productive activity, ordered his course upon a high plane of integrity and commanded the respect of his fellow men. He was liberal in support of measures and agencies for the conserving of the general welfare of the community and he continued his active association with farm enterprise

until within a few years of his death. Both he and his wife were devout communicants of the Lutheran church and he aided generously in the organizing and support of the church of this denomination in Grant township. It is interesting to record that at the time of his wife's death their grandchildren numbered fifty-two and their great-grandchildren fifteen.

Ernst H. Spilker acquired his rudimentary education in his native land and was a lad of nine years at the time when the family home was established in Gage county. Here he supplemented his mental discipline by attending the district schools and he early began to lend his aid in the work of the home farm, upon which he has remained until the present time, his father having given to him the old homestead when he was twenty-three years of age. In 1907 Mr. Spilker purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Scotts Bluff county, and this property, which he purchased for seventy-five dollars an acre, he sold in 1913 at the rate of one hundred and fifteen dollars an acre. On the old homestead he has erected one of the most modern and attractive farm residences in the county, the house having eleven rooms and being equipped with electric lights, steam heat, hot and cold running water, and the best type of modern bathroom. Within the past fifteen years he has expended fully six thousand dollars in making improvements on his farm and he is known as one of the wide-awake and progressive agriculturists and stock-growers of the county, with secure place in popular confidence and good will.

In 1896 Mr. Spilker wedded Miss Mary Meier, who was born in Germany and who was twenty-nine years of age at the time of her death, October 24, 1903. She came with her parents to America in 1881 and her father, Ernst Meier, became one of the prosperous farmers of Gage county, where he established his home in Clatonia township and where he passed the remainder of his life, his widow, whose maiden name was Mary Pohlmann, being now a resident of Jefferson county. Mr. and Mrs. Spilker became the parents of two children, Sophia and Martha, both of whom remain at the paternal home. On the 10th of February, 1905, Mr. Spilker married Miss Anna Tegeler, who was born in Clatonia township, this county, on the 18th of February, 1886, a daughter of Frederick and Charlotte (Schnele) Tegeler, who came to this county from Germany in 1882, Mr. Tegeler having been one of the representative farmers of Clatonia township at the time of his death and his widow remaining on the old homestead place. Mr. and Mrs. Spilker have four children, — Amanda, Paul, Benjamin and Esther.

In politics Mr. Spilker is found staunchly aligned in the ranks of the Republican party and he served three terms as assessor of Grant township. He and his wife are earnest communicants of the German Lutheran church in their home township and he has served since 1907 as a member of its board of trustees. The old homestead farm which he received from his father comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and through his own ability and resources he has accumulated and paid for the remainder of his now large and valuable landed estate. He is one of the shareholders in the farmers' co-operative grain elevator in the village of Dewitt, where he also assisted in the organization of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, his stock in which he later sold. On his fine farm he keeps the best of live stock, and at the time of this writing, in the winter of 1917-1918, he has nearly two hundred head of Hampshire swine. A man of splendid energy, he has achieved large and worthy success, the while he has so ordered his course as to prove a valuable citizen and command the respect and confidence of those with whom he has come in contact in the varied relations of life.

ELMER L. ROOT is a son of the late William H. Root, to whom a memorial tribute is given on other pages of this volume, and he is doing well his part in upholding the prestige of the family name in connection with farm industry and civic affairs, his base of operations being the farm of one hundred acres which he inherited from his father's estate, in

Rockford and Sherman townships, and his home place, improved with excellent buildings, being situated in Section 30, Sherman township.

Mr. Root was born in Rockford township, this county, March 9, 1888, was afforded the advantages of the public schools and has been actively allied with farm enterprise from the time of his youth to the present. He married, in 1910, Miss Sadie Ault, likewise a native of this county, and she is the popular chatelaine of their attractive home.

WILLIAM CRAIG. — For thirty-six years William Craig has been an honored citizen of Gage county, residing at Blue Springs. He is descended from staunch Pennsylvania stock, his father, Thomas Craig, having been born in Northampton (now Carbon) county, that state, in 1797. As a young man he engaged in farming for a time and later, for nearly quarter of a century, conducted a hotel at Lehigh Water Gap, besides operating a general merchandise store at the same place. He was also the owner of a stage line running from Mauch Chunk and Easton, as well as being extensively engaged in boating and transporting lumber from his mills, on the upper Lehigh, over the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company's canal, to Easton, Mauch Chunk and other points. He owned and operated his own boats and made considerable money in the enterprise. He owned three saw mills and an immense tract of timber land During the memorable freshet of 1841 he lost heavily in boats and lumber, and his entire store and contents were washed away. He continued as a hotelkeeper until about four years before his death, which occurred in 1859. The maiden name of his second wife, who was the mother of William Craig, was Catherine G. Hagenbuch. She was a native of Lehighton, Pennsylvania, her death occurring at Lehigh Gap, in 1871. She was the mother of six children, all of whom lived to maturity. The maiden name of the first wife of Thomas Craig was Kuntz and of the two children of this union one died in childhood, the other growing to manhood. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Thomas Craig, who was a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania and who served as a general in the Revolutionary war; he lived to the ripe old age of ninety years.

The subject of this review was born at Lehigh Gap, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1841. His early education was acquired in his native village, later he became a student at Allentown Seminary and he completed his education in the agricultural college of Center county, Pennsylvania (now the Pennsylvania State College). He then began teaching, and later, in company with his brother, Colonel John Craig, he engaged in the general merchandise business at Lehigh Gap. To this enterprise he added the business of boat building and railroad contracting. These interests he operated extensively and successfully, and also dealt largely in lumber, railroad ties and coal, at the same place, until the fall of 1882. The family was widely and favorably known; three of his brothers served as members of the Pennsylvania legislature, two of them being elected to the state senate.

Mr. Craig, in 1882, came to Nebraska and established himself in the stove and hardware business at Blue Springs, where his progressiveness and reliability gained him an enviable place in the community. When the Farmers' Elevator Company was organized, sixteen years ago, he assumed the position of manager, which executive post he has held continuously since.

On September 26, 1866, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Craig to Miss Mattie Gish, who was born at Berlinsville, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1844, a daughter of Abram and Elizabeth (Hummel) Gish, natives of the Keystone state, where the father was a man of prominence as a farmer and merchant. The parents of Mrs. Craig both passed their entire lives in Pennsylvania, the death of the father occurring in 1878, and that of the mother in 1884.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig became the parents of the following named children: Annie, unmarried, is a teacher in the Wymore schools; W. A. married Miss Alice Welch and resides

at Rochester, New York; F. G. married Miss Elsie Noah and resides in Lincoln, Nebraska; Jesse V. married Miss Beatrice Fenton and resides in Lincoln, Nebraska; and Martha E., unmarried, is a teacher in the schools of Omaha. The mother of these children was called to her final rest in 1914.

Mr. Craig cast his first presidential vote for McClellan, and now supports the Democratic ticket. He has been called to public office and gave effiicient service as a member of the school board many years. In 1888 he was elected and served as mayor of Blue Springs. He has also served as treasurer of the township and city. Mr. Craig has won and held the esteem of the people of the community in which for thirty-six years he has lived and labored and in which his influence and support have always been on the side of those things which are best.

It is a matter of definite record that the Craig family name has been worthily linked with the annals of American history from the colonial period, and it is specially pleasing and consistent to enter in this work a record concerning a distinguished Revolutionary patriot of the ancestral line of William Craig of Gage county. It was General Craig, then a lieutenant-colonel on the staff of General Washington, to whom the noble Quaker woman of historic note, Mrs. Lydia Darragh, reported the intended surprise attack that would be attempted by the British commander, General Howe, upon the forces of General Washington that were encamped above Philadelphia, the timely information resulting in the frustration of General Howe's plan. Of this Revolutionary incident definite mention is made in an old history which was published in 1827 and which is now in the possession of William Craig, of this review. From this old history the following quotations are taken: "Colonel Craig was also with General Washington encamped at White Marsh, fourteen miles above Philadelphia. It was through him Mrs. Lydia Darrah, of Philadelphia, conveyed to General Washington warning of General Howe's intended attack on December 2, 1777, she having heard the order read for the attack, through the keyhole of the door in the chamber of her house. The British troops marched out of the city as planned, to attack by surprise, defeat and capture the army and take General Washington prisoner. Finding General Washington fully prepared, and cannons mounted, the attack was not made, and the British marched back again, — as General Howe expressed it, 'like a parcel of fools.'"

P. M. ANDERSON, who conducts a thoroughly well ordered automobile garage in the village of Filley, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on the 15th of December, 1867, a son of Marcus and Marie (Rasmussen) Anderson, both likewise natives of that district, which was formerly a part of Denmark. There they continued their residence until 1871, when they came to the United States and settled at Princeton, Illinois. Later they removed to the city of Chicago, where they remained six years. Marcus Anderson then engaged in farming enterprise near Princeton, Illinois, where he remained until the spring of 1883, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased a farm and turned his attention with characteristic vigor to agricultural and live-stock industry. Later he sold his farm and purchased another, in Thayer county, but eventually he returned to Gage county, where he passed the closing years of his life. He had no financial resources when he came to America but by energy and good management he here gained independence and a gracious measure of prosperity. The children of his first marriage were four sons: Nis is a farmer in Cheyenne county, this state; Andrew Anderson is serving in 1918 as county treasurer of Gage county; P. M., of this review, was the next in order of birth; and L. C. owns and operates a well improved farm four miles north of Filley, this county. For his second wife the father wedded Margaret Hendrickson, and they became the parents of two children: Anna, who is the wife of George Hendrickson, of Broken Bow, Custer county; and Marie, who is the wife of Henry Remmers, of Firth, Lancaster county. The father

was a Republican in politics and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church.

P. M. Anderson acquired his youthful education in the public schools of Illinois and Nebraska, besides completing an effective course in a business college in the city of Beatrice. His independent career has been marked in earlier years by close and successful association with farm enterprise, and he is now the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres, north of Filley, and another, of one hundred and sixty acres, south of this village. In 1909 Mr. Anderson removed from his farm to the village of Filley, where he engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock and later in the agricultural implement business. He now has a well equipped automobile garage and as local agent for the popular Overland automobiles he has developed a prosperous business. He still continues to handle agricultural implements and is one of the substantial and representative business men of this attractive Gage county village. In politics Mr. Anderson is a staunch Republican, and he has served as treasurer of Filley township, as well as township assessor. He is an active communicant of the German Lutheran church, as was also his wife, whose death occurred June 2, 1911.

In October, 1895, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Anderson to Miss Christina Jensen, who was born in Denmark, and who is survived by one child, Blanche, the latter being now the wife of Edward Protsman, a representative farmer of Filley township, and their only child being a son, Harold.

JULIUS NEUMANN. — The enduring satisfaction of successful achievement rightfully belongs to Julius Neumann, for along well defined lines of enterprise he has advanced until he now holds a prominent position in the commercial circles of Gage county.

Mr. Neumann was born at Longenglonsheim, Bingen on the Rhine, July 7, 1848. His father, Gottlieb Neumann, was born July 26, 1790, and as a young man served in the German army. Later he held a government position until he was sixty-eight years of age. In 1857 he immigrated to America and settled on a farm near Cambridge, Henry county, Illinois, and there his death occurred December 25, 1861. His wife, who bore the name of Catherine Kehl, was born at Meisenheim, Germany, March 18, 1805, and died August 4, 1880, the last years of her life being spent in the home of her son Julius. Of the family of twelve children, nine sons and three daughters, all grew to maturity. Four of the sons each served full three years in the Civil war. Frederick and Valentine were in the Forty-second Illinois Infantry, Charles in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, and Jacob in the Forty-eighth Illinois Cavalry. All of the sons are living except Valentine, who died in May, 1917. The oldest lives in the city of Omaha, at the age of eighty-five years. Julius was the second youngest.

Julius Neumann acquired his education in the public schools of Cambridge, Illinois, and when a young man of twenty-one he found employment in a mercantile establishment in Henry county, that state. He was in business in several places in that state and finally established himself in business in San Jose, Illinois. March 19, 1882, he came to Wymore, Gage county, Nebraska. Here he built a fine brick block, on Niagara avenue, and here he has been engaged successfully in business since that time. Seventeen years ago he erected his present business block, a two-story building with one hundred foot frontage, the main floor being occupied by his business establishment, in which is the largest stock of general merchandise in the city. The upper story is used as offices by professional men, besides providing headquarters for the local Masonic bodies.

June 3, 1874, recorded the marriage of Mr. Neumann to Miss Amelia Wellmeyer, who was born at Wapello, Iowa, September 1, 1854, a daughter of W. H. and Elizabeth Wellmeyer, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Neumann are the parents of seven children: B. W. is married and resides in Philadelphia, where he is engaged in the laundry business; Clarice is the wife of Fred J. Kelly, Chancellor of the University of Kansas, at Law-

rence; Mahlon J., who married Miss Bertha Pirie, is associated with his father in business; Gertrude is the wife of Harry W. Hinman, an instructor in the Case technical school at Detroit, Michigan; Wilhelmina is the wife of Dr. D. M. Ausmus, of Nashville, Tennessee; Cecil H. married Miss Edith Kruger, and he is associated with his father's business; Warren R. is a student in the University of Kansas.

The religious views of Mr. Neumann coincide with the teachings of the Methodist church, in which he and his wife are active workers and liberal supporters. In politics he is a "dyed-in-the-wool" Democrat, and he has served efficiently as mayor of Wymore for three terms, besides having been a member of the municipal council and the school board for many years. He is affiliated with the blue lodge, the chapter, and the council of the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Neumann has always upheld those things which he thought were best for his city and state, and for thirty-six years he worked in implacable opposition to the saloon and liquor traffic. While he has made a signal success of his own business, he has not been remiss in any duty incidental to the religious, educational, and general civic uplift of his community, and he is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. Mr. Neumann is proud to have been born in Germany, the land of his fathers, but is as loyal an American as were his brothers who served three years for the preservation of the Union during the Civil war.

JOHN C. EMERY, who holds the position of bookkeeper for the well known firm of Kilpatrick Brothers, of Beatrice, gained in his youth a wide and varied experience in connection with pioneer activities in the west, and he is a scion of the staunchest of American stock of English strain. Mr. Emery was born at Lawrence, Kansas, December 23, 1861, and this date indicates conclusively that his parents, Charles N. and Mary (Benson) Emery, were numbered among the pioneers of the Sunflower state, the father having been a native of Augusta, Maine, and the mother of the city of Dublin, Ireland. The father of Charles N. Emery was of English ancestry and became a pioneer representative of lumbering enterprise in the old Pine Tree state, besides which he went forth as a loyal soldier in the war of 1812.

Charles N. Emery immigrated to Kansas in 1853, and in the years that followed he lived up to the full tension of frontier and pioneer life. He engaged in overland freighting to Denver and to the mountain regions of the west, and on the 4th of May, 1858, at Lawrence, Kansas, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Mary Benson, who had come with two of her brothers to the United States and who had lived in Brooklyn, New York, and Chicago, Illinois, prior to her removal to Kansas. In 1864 Charles N. Emery and his family removed to Liberty Farm, Kansas, and on the 9th of August of that year their little home was burned by a band of marauding Indians. Removal was then made to Kearney, Nebraska, and in July, 1867, the family home was established at Beatrice, Gage county — in the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood. Here Charles N. Emery and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, as sterling pioneers of the county, and his death occurred in 1897, his widow having died in 1907. In a recapitulatory way and as incidental to the stirring frontier experiences of these honored pioneers, it may be stated that from March, 1862, until the spring of 1864, Mr. Emery was in charge of the Thirty-two Mile Creek station on the eastern, or Fort Kearney, division of the great stage line, and in the latter year he took the management of the Liberty Farm station, on the north bank of the Little Blue river. As before stated, this station was burned by the Indians during their historic raid in August, 1864, and several other stations on the stage line likewise were destroyed at this period. In the spring of 1865, after new stations had been built by the stage company, Mr. Emery was placed in charge of the station at Fort Kearney, where he remained until the eastern division of the line was

abandoned by the stage operators — after the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha to Fort Kearney. Mr. Emery proved a most valuable and resourceful employe of the stage company, as he was a fine judge of horses and when occasion required could mount the box of a stage and ably drive a four or six horse team. He and his wife kept an eating station that became famed for its effective service and was much appreciated by the travelers who passed over the stage route in those early days. Mrs. Emery was an excellent cook and the provender which she set forth cheered many a weary sojourner. Incidentally the historic frontier character, Ben Holliday, one of the best of the early stage operators, stopped at the Emery station on Two Mile Creek for breakfast one morning, while on one of his stage trips from California eastward. This hardy pioneer, who had been reared on the frontier, had an inordinate fondness for the old-time "corn dodgers," and after Mrs. Emery had set forth for his delectation a goodly supply of his favorite frontier delicacies he threw on the table a twenty-dollar gold piece as his personal tribute to Mrs. Emery and her culinary skill.

John C. Emery acquired the most of his early education in a Catholic school at Atchison, Kansas, and as a boy and youth he accompanied his father on the latter's freighting expeditions over the plains and prairies, the experience having been one to which he reverts with marked satisfaction in this later era of opulent prosperity. In coming to Gage county the family journeyed more than two hundred miles in a covered wagon, and after the home had been established in Beatrice he was enabled to supplement his education by attending the high school. In 1879 he became deputy county clerk, under the regime of Captain Hill, and for a number of years he held a position in the office of the county recorder of Gage county. A skilled bookkeeper and accountant, he has for several years past held a position in the representative business house of Kilpatrick Brothers.

In 1881 Mr. Emery wedded Miss Helen Jaynes, who was born at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on the 3d of January, 1861, a daughter of the late Henry C. Jaynes, who came to Gage county in 1871 and became a pioneer settler in Wymore township, he having been a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Emery have two children. Mollie is the wife of Edward W. Clack, of Edgar, Clay county, where he is engaged in the real-estate business. Mr. and Mrs. Clack reside within seven miles of the place where her paternal grandfather's stage station was burned by the Indians, in 1864, as noted in a preceding paragraph. Robert J. Emery, the only son, is now (spring of 1918) first lieutenant of Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth United States Infantry, and has been assigned to duty as instructor at the officers' training school at Camp Cody, New Mexico. In this connection it is interesting to record that out of a total of five hundred and twenty-five men he was one of three who successfully passed the examination that determined his eligibility for this post of instructor, all three of the successful aspirants having been Gage county boys. Robert J. Emery married Miss Mabel Willis, of Beatrice, and they have one son, Robert J., Jr.

Mrs. Emery is an earnest communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church, and he is affiliated with the Royal Arcanum and the Modern Woodmen of America.

ERWIN W. SCHAEFER has distinct vantage-ground as one of the vigorous and representative business men in the city of Beatrice, where he is treasurer and general manager of the Sanitary Dairy, a corporation that has developed a substantial and important industrial enterprise.

Mr. Schaefer was born in the fair little republic of Switzerland, and the date of his nativity was May 28, 1873. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Schlup) Schaefer, the father having been a farmer and also having developed in Switzerland a prosperous business in the handling of such waste materials as copper, iron, etc. The mother served for twenty-six years as postmistress at Ammann-

ERWIN W. SCHAEFER

segg, Switzerland, a picturesque village among the snow-capped mountains. The subject of this review is a member of a family of eight children, all of whom are living, and he is the only one of the number in the United States, the others all remaining in Switzerland.

Erwin W. Schaefer was afforded the advantages of the notably excellent schools of his native land, where he completed a course in the high school at Solothurumswitz and also gave special attention to the study of French. He is thus conversant with the German, French, and English languages. After leaving school Mr. Schaefer found employment in a mercantile establishment, and he was an ambitious young man of twenty-five years when he severed the home ties and set forth to make for himself a place of independence in America. He came to the United States in the year 1898 and established his residence in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where for three years he was employed in connection with the brewery industry. He then established in that city a creamery business and after conducting the same several years he engaged in the same line of enterprise at Sheboygan, Wisconsin. There he continued his activities in a successful way until 1912, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and became head butter and ice-cream maker for the Beatrice Poultry & Cold Storage Company, of which Henry Fishbach is the executive head. This alliance he continued until 1917, on the 1st of January of which year was effected the organization of the Sanitary Dairy, which was incorporated with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars and of which he has been treasurer and general manager from the beginning. The capital stock is now one hundred thousand dollars. He has a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the dairy business and his executive ability and progressive policies have brought about the substantial development of the business of the company with which he is now identified. Mr. Schaefer is distinctly loyal and appreciative in his civic attitude and in his political allegiance he is aligned in the ranks of the Republican party. He is affiliated with the Beatrice lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and he and his wife are communicants of Christ church, Protestant Episcopal, in their home city.

November 4, 1899, recorded the marriage of Mr. Schaefer to Miss Emma Schiltnicht, who likewise is a native of Switzerland and who established her residence in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, upon coming to America, one of her brothers being now pastor of the German Reformed church at Jackson, that state. Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer have two children, Herbert and Eleanor. Herbert is one of the gallant young sons of Gage county who has entered the nation's service in connection with the great European war. He is a sergeant in the signal corps of the United States army and at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, he is with his command "somewhere in France." Miss Eleanor Schaefer is a student in the Beatrice high school.

JOSEPH J. WILL is one of the substantial farmers of Rockford township, where he owns his home place of eighty acres, in Section 16, and also utilizes an adjoining tract of eighty acres, which he rents. He is a son of the late Frank M. Will, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present article.

Joseph J. Will was born in Woodford county, Illinois, on the 13th of September, 1870, and he was twenty-one years of age when he came with his parents to Gage county. His principal educational advantages in his youth were those afforded by the district schools and at the age of twenty-three years he engaged in independent farming activities on land which he rented in Rockford township. In the spring of 1917 he purchased his present farm home, and those familiar with his energy and progressiveness can give assurance that cumulative success will be his and that the same will be manifested in the judicious improvements which he will make from time to time upon his farm property — given over to diversified agriculture and stock-

raising. He is known for his unremitting industry and expresses himself in deeds rather than words, both in the handling of his business affairs and as a loyal citizen. Office-seeking proclivities have never been his but he gives his political support to the Democratic party.

In 1896 Mr. Will married Miss Helen Beam, who was born and reared in this county, and their five children are Harry, Frank, Roy, Raymond, and Vivian.

CHARLES A. MILLER. — One of the younger men of Gage county who is meeting with success in his chosen calling is Charles A. Miller, who owns and operates a farm of two hundred and six acres, in Section 35, Sicily township.

Mr. Miller was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, April 21, 1873, a son of Eli and Elizabeth (Sheetz) Miller, who are now residents of Wymore, Gage county, and whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. Charles A. Miller was ten years old when the home was established in Gage county. Here he was reared on his father's farm and educated in the public schools. On reaching man's estate he became a farmer, and for thirteen years he has owned his present place, which is devoted to general farming. His farm is well improved and he is progressive in his methods, is industrious, and is meeting with success.

Mr. Miller completed arrangements for a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Cora Pyle, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Samuel L. Pyle, who is represented on other pages of this volume.

Mr. Miller is a Democrat in politics and served four years as clerk of Sicily township. Fraternally he is associated with the Royal Highlanders, and he is one of the substantial men of his township.

FRED A. WRIGHT. — As a scion of one of the honored and influential pioneer families of his native county and as one who has here achieved a place of precedence in connection with banking enterprise, Mr. Wright is entitled to special recognition in this history. He is associated with his father in the ownership and conducting of the Citizens' State Bank of Virginia, of which he is cashier, and he is numbered among the popular and representative business men of the younger generation in the vital little town of Virginia.

Mr. Wright was born on his father's old homestead farm near Hoag, this county, on the 2d of April, 1880, and is a son of Amos L. and Clara (Wickham) Wright, who now maintain their home in the village of Virginia, this county, the subject of this review being their youngest child and only son; Frances A., elder of the two daughters, is the widow of Joseph E. Penry, and resides at Bostonia, California, she having three sons; Bessie, the younger daughter, is the wife of William Holm, a merchant at Virginia, this county, and they have two daughters.

Amos L. Wright was born in Menard county, Illinois, February 27, 1844, and was there continuously identified with farm enterprise from his boyhood until 1866, when he came to Nebraska Territory and entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 10, Blakely township, Gage county. He developed one of the well improved farms of that township and remained on this old homestead until 1886, when he purchased an entire section of land to the south of the village of Virginia, this county, this estate comprising the south half of Section 14 and the north half of Section 23, Sherman township. He made the best of improvements on this extensive tract and became one of the leading exponents of agricultural and live-stock industry in that section of the county. In 1890 he retired from the farm and he and his wife have since resided at Virginia. Mrs. Wright was born in Holt county, Missouri, July 27, 1848, and her marriage was solemnized in Gage county, Nebraska. She is a zealous member of the Christian church and her husband is a Republican in politics.

Fred A. Wright has never regretted the sturdy discipline which he gained in connection with the activities of the home farm and has retained full appreciation of the dignity and value of honest toil. In addition to profit-

ing by the advantages of the public schools he completed a course in a business college at Davenport, Iowa, and in 1899 he became associated with his father in the grain and lumber business at Virginia. Shortly after his marriage, in 1903, he assumed the active management of his father's farm, where he continued his productive enterprise as an agriculturist and stock-grower until the autumn of 1912, when, as a medium of experience, he assumed a clerical position in the Union State Bank of Beatrice. With this institution he continued his service until April, 1914, when he purchased the bank at Spring Ranch, Clay county. Of this bank he had the active management until March, 1915, when he formed a partnership with Robin A. Nickell and purchased the Bank of Cortland, and in November, 1917, he severed his connections there and became cashier of the Citizens' State Bank of Virginia. He is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 22, Sherman township, and is one of the vigorous and resourceful business men of his native county. He takes deep interest in all things pertaining to his home village and served as mayor at Cortland in 1916, his political allegiance being given to the Republican party and he and his wife being members of the Christian church in the village of Virginia. At Virginia he is a popular member of the camp of the Modern Woodmen of America.

January 6, 1903, recorded the marriage of Mr. Wright to Miss Ethel C. Edwards, who was born at Webb City, Missouri, a daughter of John W. and Mary (Trauber) Edwards, natives of Illinois and early settlers of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where they still reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Wright have been born three children: Faye was born in 1905 and died in 1908, and the two surviving are Dorothy, born December 13, 1908, and Dale E., born July 9, 1915.

A review of the career of Amos L. Wright, father of the subject of this sketch, appears on other pages of this volume.

JACOB S. DAWSON was born in Stark county, Illinois, May 13, 1883, and is a son of John L. Dawson, of whom individual mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

Jacob S. Dawson was brought to Nebraska by his parents when he was three years of age, and he received his early education in the country schools of Gage county. He remained with his father on the home farm, in Sicily township, until eleven years ago. Then his father retired and removed to Wymore to make his home. Jacob S. Dawson remained on the farm and he now owns this old home place, of one hundred and seventy acres, in Section 25, Sicily township. He has made many improvements on this farm, building additions to the barns and erecting two silos. He now has as fine a set of farm buildings as can be found in the county. His home is modern in every particular, being lighted with electricity and heated by furnace. Here he and his family are thus able to enjoy the conveniences of a city home, though residing on the farm. Mr. Dawson does a general farming business, and raises and feeds cattle and hogs for the market, somewhat extensively. He is numbered among Gage county's prosperous citizens and representative farmers.

Mr. Dawson chose as his wife Miss Grace Roberts, daughter of J. W. Roberts, of Barneston township, Gage county. They are the parents of four children, Dean, Donald, Marguerite, and Gerald. Mr. and Mrs. Dawson are members of the Methodist church at Wymore. Mr. Dawson is independent in politics and gives his support to the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. At Wymore he is affiliated with the lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

JAMES LONG, a successful farmer of Sicily township, was born December 20, 1860, at Peoria, Illinois, and is a son of John and Mary (Dalton) Long, who were natives of Ireland and came to America at an early date, settling in Illinois. John Long died when his son James was a small child and his widow thereafter moved to Mason county, Illinois,

near Forest City, where she bought eighty acres of land. Here James Long grew to manhood, attending school when he could, and working on the farm. There he married Miss Maggie Brown, whose parents died when she was a child, she having been reared by her foster father, Martin Hood, of Mason county.

Mr. and Mrs. Long came to Gage county, Nebraska, in the early '80s and settled on Sicily creek, in Sicily township. Their first home was a log house, and at that time Mr. Long's worldly goods consisted of one team of horses, a few farming tools, and seventy-five dollars in cash. He later bought one hundred and sixty acres of slightly improved land in Elm township, and he farmed this for twelve years. He then bought his present farm, of two hundred and eighty acres, in Section 29, Sicily township. He is a prosperous farmer of marked energy and progressiveness and is a valued citizen of Sicily township.

Mr. and Mrs. Long became the parents of five children, as follows: James is a farmer in Elm township. Ella is the wife of Roy Carpenter, of Omaha, Nebraska; May is the wife of Milo Carpenter, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Earl died at the age of fourteen years; Leo is associated with his father in the operation of the home farm.

Mr. Long is a Democrat in politics, and is at present a member of the school board of his district. He and his family are members of the Catholic church.

JOHN T. LEPOIDEVIN was born in Gage county, Nebraska, September 9, 1872, a son of Thomas LePoidevin, of Beatrice, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

John T. LePoidevin was reared on a farm and attended country school in Gage county. As a young man he farmed with his father on the home place, and later he rented some land from his father and began farming for himself. In 1910 Mr. LePoidevin purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 5, Rockford township, and this property he has since greatly improved, having remodeled the house and erected some new buildings, with the result that he now has one of the best improved farms in the county. Starting with no unusual advantages, Mr. LePoidevin has through his own efforts made a success of his chosen calling.

Mr. LePoidevin was united in marriage to Miss Lottie Kettering, daughter of John Kettering, of Monmouth, Illinois. To this union have been born five children — Hazel, Loree, Verna, Marjorie, and Eva.

Mr. and Mrs. LePoidevin are members of the Christian church of Beatrice, and are regular attendants. He is a Republican and has been a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion.

SILAS F. RICHARDS was ten years old at the time when his parents established their residence in Gage county, in 1872, and here he was reared to manhood on the pioneer farm of his father, the late George F. Richards, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume. Mr. Richards has permitted no futilities to mark his career as one of the progressive exponents of farm industry in Gage county and is to-day the owner of an excellently improved estate of two hundred and forty acres, in Sherman township, his attractive home being situated in Section 17, about seven miles distant from Holmesville, which is his postoffice address.

Mr. Richards was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, March 2, 1863, and in his native county he received his rudimentary education, which was supplemented by his attending the schools of Gage county after the family home had here been established in Rockford township. He continued to be associated with the work of his father's farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-two years, and for several years thereafter he farmed on rented land. His energy and good management brought to him cumulative success in the passing years, and this is significantly attested by his ownership of his present fine farm estate, which he has improved with good buildings and on which he gives his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of good

types of live stock. He takes loyal interest in community affairs and in politics is staunchly arrayed with the Democratic party.

The year 1886 recorded the marriage of Mr. Richards to Miss Minnie Leming, who was twelve years of age when her parents came from Indiana to Gage county, she having been born in La Porte, Indiana, January 27, 1871, and being a daughter of John and Margaret (Lukemire) Leming, who were born in Ohio and whose marriage was solemnized in Indiana. Upon coming to Gage county Mr. Leming engaged in farming in Sherman township, where he passed the remainder of his life. His death occurred November 6, 1903, and his widow now lives in the home of one of her sons, at Belgrade, Nance county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Richards have six children: Ralph is married and resides in the city of Beatrice; Edna is the wife of Clarence Bryant, of Wymore, this county; Fay is married but remains with his parents, as his father's effective assistant in the work and management of the home farm; Blanche is the wife of Cecil Snyder, of Wymore, this county; and Glenn and Forrest are the younger members of the parental home circle.

HARLEY J. SHAW is an honored pioneer whose association with Nebraska was initiated several years prior to the admission of the state to the Union and his experiences in the early days involved specially close association with the Otoe Indians, whose language he learned to speak. His reminiscences pertinent to life on the frontier are most graphic and interesting, even as are those pertaining to his gallant service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. His patriotism at that climateric period was on a parity with that shown by both his paternal and maternal grandfathers, each of whom was a valiant soldier in the earlier wars in which the nation was involved, the paternal grandfather having served in the war of 1812 and the maternal grandfather, Colonel Renaulds, having served as an officer in the command of General Washington in the war of the Revolution: he was a man of splendid vigor and attained to the patriarchal age of one hundred and four years.

Harley J. Shaw was born in Onondaga county, New York, December 25, 1844, and is now the only survivor in a family of five children, of whom he was the firstborn. He is a son of Samuel and Lydia (Renaulds) Shaw, whose marriage was solemnized in Onondaga county, whence, in 1847, they removed to Wisconsin, where they became pioneers and where they lived at intervals in the now prosperous little cities of Waupaca, Green Bay, and Stevens Point. After remaining six years in Wisconsin they returned to the state of New York, and about the time of the Civil war's inception they came to Nebraska Territory and became residents of Gage county. Here Samuel Shaw secured a claim on Cub creek and instituted the reclamation of a farm. He went forth from his frontier farm to give two years of service as a soldier of the Civil war. He enlisted as a member of the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, and after the close of the war he conducted for ten years the government flour mill and saw mill at Blue Springs, on the Otoe Indian reservation. Both he and his wife attained to the psalmist's span of three score years and ten and both were residents of Gage county at the time of death.

Harley J. Shaw was three years old at the time of the family removal to Wisconsin, and thus was nine years of age when was made the return to New York state, where he acquired his youthful education in the schools of Navrino, Onondaga county, and where he was reared to manhood. He was not yet seventeen years old at the inception of the Civil war, but his youthful patriotism was not long to be curbed, for, in January, 1862, at Syracuse, he enlisted in Battery F, Third New York Light Artillery. He was mustered in at Palace Garden, New York city, and thence proceeded with his command to the city of Washington. The command was engaged with the heavy artillery forces at Fort Corcoran and later served under General McClellan in the second battle of Bull Run. The military career of Mr. Shaw included partici-

HARLEY J. SHAW

pation in General Burnside's expedition to New Berne, North Carolina; in the battle of Kingston, where his horse was shot from under him in a desperate charge in which his command operated the first gun in holding the bridge; engagements at Whitehall, Goldsboro, and Little Washington; and the conflict at Plymouth, where he gave distinguished evidence of his valor. Thereafter, under Foster's command, Mr. Shaw was detailed as a sailor and started for Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he passed the historic naval vessel known as "Old Ironsides." He was under Gilmore at the siege of Charleston, being under fire for a period of three months, and his service was further continued in action at Wagner, Gregg, James Island, Jacksonville, Florida, and Savannah, Georgia. He was at Savannah when his term of enlistment expired, but he continued in active service through the engagements of Honey Hill, Fort Telego, and Seabrook Island. In the many and spirited encounters in which he took part Mr. Shaw escaped without a wound, and besides this he was never ill or otherwise incapacitated and never failed to respond to roll call. He was mustered out of service at Hilton Head, South Carolina, where also he received his honorable discharge, on the 14th of March, 1865. He is one of the veteran and honored members of Rawlins Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the city of Beatrice, and has passed various official chairs in the same.

After the close of the war Mr. Shaw returned to his native county, and in the following autumn he joined his parents in Nebraska Territory. In the winter of 1865-1866 he became associated with his father in the operation of the government mills on the Otoe Indian reservation, and it was in this winter that he cast his first vote, this ballot being incidentally in support of adoption of the constitution on which was based the demand of the territory for admission to statehood. In the spring of 1866 Mr. Shaw took up a homestead in Section 19, Rockford township, and on this place, which he developed most effectively, he continued his residence thirty-five years. Since 1908 he has resided on his present farm of eighty acres, in Section 19, Sherman township.

In 1867 Mr. Shaw wedded Miss Flora Andrews, who was born in the state of New York and whose death occurred in 1884. Of the children of this union the eldest is Lovilla, who is the widow of Frank Bishop, and resides at Tate, Pawnee county; Corey R. died in 1887, having been shot by accident; Miles S. is engaged in farming in Blue Springs township; Addie E. is the wife of Frederick Sage, of Boulder, Colorado; and Ralph died in infancy. For his second wife Mr. Shaw married Miss Mary L. Berry, who was born in Iowa, and she passed to the life eternal in 1910. They became the parents of the following named children: Clement is an electrician and is serving as such in the European war; Bernard is a resident of Tate, Pawnee county, Dell remains with her father, as does also Hazel; Lottie died in childhood; and Harley is with the United States forces in the European war.

Few had broader or more varied frontier experience than did this sterling pioneer, and few had closer association with the Indians, among whom he moved as a valued friend and whose language he acquired. He was associated with freighting enterprise in the early days, between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Brownville and Lincoln, Nebraska, and he grappled duly with the hardships entailed by drought and grasshoppers. He has always been a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party, has been on many occasions a delegate to its conventions in Gage county, and has served in various township offices — an upright and loyal citizen who commands secure place in popular esteem and good will. He is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

FREDERICK STEINMEYER. — This sterling pioneer, now living retired in the village of Clatonia, is another of those sturdy and industrious men who bore the full heat and burden of the day in connection with the social and industrial development and prog-

ress of Gage county in the early days and he is especially entitled to recognition in this work.

Mr. Steinmeyer was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, February 25, 1841, and is a son of Joseph H. and Elizabeth (Fradiker) Steinmeyer, who immigrated with their children to America in the late '50s and established their home in Scioto county, Ohio. Concerning the family history adequate data are given on other pages — in the sketch of John H. Steinmeyer, of Beatrice, the youngest of the surviving sons, as well as in mention of other members of this influential pioneer family. Frederick Steinmeyer gained his early education in his native land and was a youth of sixteen years at the time of the family immigration to the United States. Thereafter he was associated with farm industry in Ohio until the precipitation of the Civil war, when he enlisted as a member of Company B. Fifty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was with his command in all of the important battles and minor engagements in which it was involved in Mississippi and other southern states, and he was at New Orleans, Louisiana, when he received his honorable discharge, in November, 1864. He then returned to Scioto county, Ohio, but ten months later, in the autumn of 1865, he came to Nebraska Territory. He located at Nebraska City and later became one of the pioneers of Gage county. In April ,1866, he entered a homestead claim in Section 28, Clatonia township, one mile south of the present village of Clatonia. At Nebraska City he purchased an ox team, which he drove through to Gage county and utilized in the breaking of his land, his first house having been a rude dugout of the type common to that early period. In this primitive domicile was maintained the family home for six years, and then removal was made to a frame house which he erected on Clatonia creek, where he had available timber. He remained on his original homestead twenty-six years and eventually added to his landed estate by purchasing land from the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad Company, the line of which passed through his farm in such a way as to require the removal or demolishing of the farm house. He bought more land and removed back from the bottoms of the creek, made excellent improvements on his property and continued his activities as one of the successful and representative farmers of the county until 1912, since which year he has lived retired in the attractive and modern house which he erected in the village of Clatonia. He is still the owner of a valuable landed estate of three hundred and seventy-five acres and is a venerable pioneer who commands the fullest measure of popular esteem. In politics Mr. Steinmeyer is a loyal Republican, he is affiliated with the post of the Grand Army of the Republic in the village of Dewitt, and he and his wife are earnest members of the German Methodist church.

February 15, 1867, recorded the marriage of Mr. Steinmeyer to Miss Mary Frye, of Scioto county, Ohio, to which state he returned for achieving the gracious companionship which has continued for more than half a century. Mrs. Steinmeyer was born in Ohio, December 23, 1851, and is a daughter of Henry and Alinora (Schaffer) Frye, who likewise were born and reared in that state and who became the parents of ten children, Mrs. Steinmeyer having been the second in order of birth and her parents having come to Gage county in 1868, but finally having settled at Martel, Lancaster county, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

Of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeyer the first, Lena, died in infancy; Sarah is the wife of Philip F. Wullschleger, of University Place, Nebraska; Martha conducts a millinery store at Clatonia and also has the active supervision of the parental home; John F. is individually mentioned on other pages; Agnes is the wife of Felix F. Noble, of Haxton, Colorado, their marriage having been solemnized on the golden-wedding anniversary of her parents, February 15, 1917; Frank is a prosperous farmer of Grant township, as is also Wesley D., who likewise is mentioned individually in this publication.

Mr. Steinmeyer recalls that when he and other members of the family came to the fron-

tier wilds of Gage county their financial resources were very limited, so that the brothers had to do work for others, including the sawing of wood, it having fallen to the subject of this review to solicit such work from the neighbors and his exactness in the use of English having been so lacking at that time that his customary query was: "Have you any woods to saw?" He has had in his active career full fellowship with honest toil and endeavor and well merits the gracious prosperity that attends the gentle evening of his life and that of his devoted wife, who has been his true helpmeet. They were the first bride and groom to establish a home in Clatonia township and during the long intervening period of half a century they have here had a circle of friends limited only by that of their acquaintances.

SHERMAN TAYLOR, one of the substantial citizens of Gage county, was for many years successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, and for the past ten years he has been a resident of Wymore, where he has contributed in many ways toward the upbuilding of commercial and industrial enterprises.

Sherman Taylor was born in Stark county, Illinois, September 3, 1865, and is a son of Jacob Taylor, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Reared on a farm in Illinois, he there attended the public schools, and in 1882 he came with his parents to Gage county. He attended the Nebraska State University, at Lincoln, and when twenty-one years of age he began his independent career as a farmer. For eighteen years he operated a large farm in Paddock and Sicily townships, where he was an extensive feeder of cattle — to the number of four or five hundred each year. His industry and his intelligently directed efforts were crowned with goodly success and in 1908 he removed to Wymore, where he occupies a beautiful home which he erected for his family. Indolence and idleness being foreign to his nature, he has from time to time identified himself with many enterprises that have benefited the city of Wymore.

Mr. Taylor organized the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank of Wymore and became its first president. He has continued as a member of its board of directors, helping to shape its policy, and it is one of the strong financial institutions of Gage county. Of this banking corporation he is still serving as president. He built several business blocks, having faith in the community and being desirous of aiding its growth and development by judicious investment of his capital. He was a member of the building committee and had active charge of the erecting of the beautiful edifice of the Methodist Episcopal church of Wymore, of which he and his family are members.

Mr. Taylor was united in marriage to Miss Lena Swik, and to them have been born five children: Martha is the wife of Paul F. Mosely, a prosperous young farmer of Paddock township, where he operates one of Mr. Taylor's farms; Sherman, who married Miss Gladys McMaken, is operating an ice plant at Blue Springs, this county; Elsie and Edwin are still under the parental roof; and Harold died at the age of two years.

Mr. Taylor exercises his right of franchise by voting for men he deems best fitted to serve the public, and in favor of all measures which he believes are for the good of the public. The city of Wymore was but one year old when Mr. Taylor first saw it, and he has been a witness of the changes which have taken place incidental to the development and upbuilding of this attractive little city, besides which he has been a prominent factor in helping to bring about present-day conditions. In his own affairs he has builded wisely and well, and he is held in unqualified esteem by all who know him.

HARVEY R. ESSAM. — The subject of this sketch is a native son of Gage county, who has elected to remain within its borders and who is here meeting with a good degree of prosperity.

Mr. Essam was born on the farm which is now his home, in Logan township, his natal day having been February 20, 1883. He is a son of James Essam, of whom extended men-

tion is made on other pages of this volume. Reared on the farm, he attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education, this being supplemented by attendance at the Northwestern Business College at Beatrice. As a young man he took up the occupation of farming and upon the settlement of his father's estate, he came into possession of eighty acres of the old homestead.

Mr. Essam chose as his wife Miss May Higgins, who likewise is a native of Gage county. She is a daughter of C. K. Higgins, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Essam are loyal members of the Methodist church. Their entire lives thus far have been spent in the neighborhood where they now make their home, and both represent families who for many years have been active factors in the moral and material upbuilding of Gage county.

HENRY FISHER, who is giving his vigorous energies to the management of his well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 25, Holt township, and who is a member of a sterling pioneer family of the county, was born on his father's old homestead farm, in Section 36, Holt township, on the 4th of January, 1874. He is the eldest of six children born to Frederick and Mary E. (Boward) Fisher, and the second child, Rebecca, is now the wife of William Conklin, of Highland township; Lena is the wife of Lewis Cornelius, of Holt township; Lydia is the wife of Charles Lewis, of Billings, Montana; Bertha died in childhood; and Hattie is the wife of John Barnard, of Midland township.

Frederick Fisher was born in Germany, in 1844, and was a youth of twenty years when he came to the United States and settled in Illinois, where he found employment at farm work. There his marriage was solemnized, his wife having been born in the state of Maryland, in 1855, and in 1871 they became pioneer settlers in Gage county, where he purchased eighty acres of school land, in Section 36, Holt township. He developed one of the excellent farms of the township and there continued to reside until his death, in 1907, his widow still remaining on the old home place.

Henry Fisher is indebted to the district schools of Holt township for his youthful education and has been actively concerned with farm enterprise from his boyhood to the present. His present farm, which he rents from his mother, is a part of the valuable landed estate accumulated by his father, and as a progressive agriculturist and stock-grower he is fully upholding the honors of the family name. He is independent in politics, is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he served six years as road overseer in Holt township.

February 8, 1894, recorded the marriage of Mr. Fisher to Miss Cora Langley, who was born at Nebraska City, this state, a daughter of George and Maria (Mason) Langley, who were natives of Illinois and who came to Nebraska about 1879; in 1882 they came to Gage county and they passed the remainder of their lives on their farm in Holt township, north of Pickrell. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have four children; Laura is the wife of James Carbough, a farmer of Highland township; Clarence is a prosperous young farmer of Holt township, on the farm of his paternal grandmother; and Rena and Mary remain at the parental home.

ELI MILLER, a retired farmer residing at Wymore, has been a resident of Gage county since pioneer times. He assisted in the county's development and met with the success that enables him to spend the evening of his life in the enjoyment of a well earned rest.

Mr. Miller was born in Medina county, Ohio, August 2, 1842, a son of J. C. and Elizabeth (Claus) Miller, natives of Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather was Jonas Miller and the great-grandfather Miller was a native of Switzerland.

When Eli Miller was three years old his parents moved to Illinois, becoming early settlers in Stephenson county where they were farming people, their last days being spent in

Gage county, Nebraska. Here they died at the home of their daughter Mrs. Boyd, in Paddock township, the father reaching the advanced age of ninety-three years, while the age of the mother was eighty-four years at the time of her death.

Eli Miller spent his boyhood days in Stephenson county, Illinois, where he was reared on a farm and attended the public schools. At the age of twenty-one years he engaged in farming, and eventually he purchased land upon which he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits in that county until 1884, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Barneston township. The improvements on this place were those to be found here in those pioneer days, but Mr. Miller industriously began the further improvement of his place and brought the land to a high state of cultivation. He erected substantial buildings and continued to reside on his farm until eleven years ago, when he removed to Wymore, where he has since lived in honorable retirement.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Miller wedded Miss Mary Elizabeth Sheetz, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, March 18, 1842, and of this union four children have been born: Elsie is the wife of George Shad, of Wymore; Charles A. is a farmer in Sicily township; Marshall M., owns and operates the old home farm; and Emma remains with her parents, at Wymore.

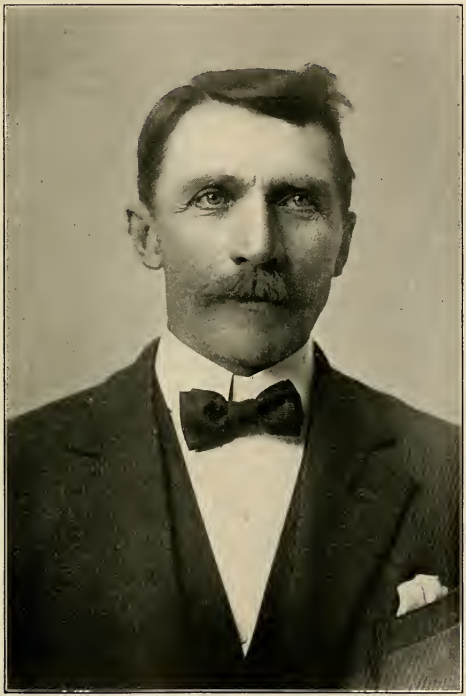
Mr. Miller exercises the right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party but has never aspired to public office, as he has preferred to give his time and attention to his own affairs, in connection with which he has won a worthy success.

LOUIS RICHARDS has the distinction of being a native son of Gage county and a representative exponent of agricultural and livestock industry in Sherman township, where he has conducted operations since 1906 on the Wilkinson farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 19. Pertinent to the history of the Richards family adequate data are given on other pages, in the memoir dedicated to his father, the late George F. Richards.

On the old homestead farm, in Rockford township, where his parents established their residence in 1872, Louis Richards was born June 20, 1875, and thus he was ushered into the world under the conditions that marked this section of the state in the middle-pioneer era. He was afforded the advantages of the local schools and he was a vital and ambitious youth of eighteen years at the time of his father's death. Thereafter he remained with his widowed mother and gave his attention to the work of the home farm until his marriage, since which time he has been independently engaged in farm enterprise, with success that attests his energy and executive ability. He is always ready to give his support to those measures and agencies that tend to advance the communal welfare and is independent in politics.

In the year 1896 Mr. Richards married Miss Mary Winrick, who likewise is a native of this county and whose father, Joseph Winrick, now a resident of the state of Washington, conducted for many years a barber shop in the city of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Richards have two children, — Orville and Ethel.

HERMAN H. PENTERMAN. — Among the many prosperous farmers and land-owners of Gage county mention should be made in this history of Herman H. Penterman, owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Nemaha township, besides other land holdings outside the state of Nebraska. Mr. Penterman was born February 19, 1863, in the province of Hanover, Germany, and is a son of Herman H. Wilbrand Penterman and Anna Marie (Adelharit) Penterman, who became the parents of four children, and who passed their entire lives in Germany. The subject of this review left his native land in 1884 and soon after his arrival in the United States he found employment as a farm hand in Illinois. Eventually he engaged independently in farm enterprise in that state, where he continued operations until 1892. He then came to Gage county, Ne-



HERMAN H. PENTERMAN

braska, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 15, Nemaha township. Later he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Section 22, and on this property he has made extensive improvements.

On the 4th of December, 1890, Mr. Penterman was united in marriage to Miss Marie Sachtleben, who was born in Germany, October 14, 1867, and who came to America with her parents when she was but one year old. She was a daughter of John Sachtleben, further record of the family being given in the sketch of Henry H. Sachtleben, elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Penterman passed away on the 28th of February, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Penterman were born seven children: Dorothy is the wife of John Olson, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Edwin is at home; Adele is the wife of Emmit Damrow; and Louis, Ella, Emma, and Louisa are at the paternal home.

In politics Mr. Penterman is an independent voter, and he and his family are members of the German Lutheran church.

FRANK SHALLA is one of the early settlers of Glenwood township, and, though his financial condition was not very flattering when he arrived here, forty years ago, he has by industry and good management become one of the wealthy men and extensive land owners of Gage county.

Frank Shalla was born in the province of Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, May 22, 1853, a son of John and Catherine (Skala) Shalla, natives of Bohemia, who, in 1856, came to America and settled in Johnson county, Iowa. There John Shalla bought forty acres of land, and on this was maintained the family home until the removal to Washington county, Iowa, near the town of Richmond, where Mr. Shalla and his wife made their home on a farm of forty acres during the remainder of their lives.

Frank Shalla was reared on the pioneer farm in Iowa, and in Washington county, that state, he married Miss Mary Malisky, who was born in Bohemia, August 25, 1855, a daughter of Vancel and Wilma (Hraby) Malisky. Her parents came from their native land to America in 1865 and spent the rest of their lives in Washington county, Iowa.

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shalla came to Gage county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild, unimproved land in Glenwood township, — on what had been the Otoe Indian reservation, which had been recently opened for settlement.

He filed entry on a quarter-section, and agreed to pay four and one-half dollars an acre for the land. His cash capital was three hundred dollars, and after purchasing lumber for a home, and a cow, some tools, and feed for his team, his money was all gone. Some time later, when a payment was to be made on the land and other persons were about to lay claim to the place, Mr. Shalla went to Beatrice and borrowed four hundred dollars from Mr. Hugh J. Dobbs, the author of this history, and thus he was able to protect his interests and save his farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Shalla were among the first settlers to locate in their present neighborhood, and neighbors were few and far between. It might be interesting to the present generation to know something concerning the conditions that existed then and something about the hardships of those early-day pioneers. The first home of Mr. and Mrs. Shalla was a rough board shanty, fourteen by eighteen feet in dimension and ten feet high. The lath was split by hand from hickory and ask logs and was plastered with yellow clay, which was then whitewashed. A very comfortable home was thus provided, — one that was warm in winter and cool in summer. To get money to provide food for his family Mr. Shalla would leave his wife and two children alone and go thirty-five miles to find work. But the thought of some day having a good home of their own helped him and his devoted wife to overcome all obstacles, and they have lived to see the country converted into beautiful farms with good homes, and dotted here and there with thriving villages and towns. In this work of transformation Frank Shalla and his family have contributed their full share. Mr. Shalla to-day is the owner of three hundred and

twenty acres of splendid land, equipped with a good set of buildings, and he has also divided six quarter-sections of land among his children.

Mr. and Mrs. Shalla have become the parents of eleven children: John M. is a successful farmer of Paddock township, as is also Frank R.; Vancel was killed by a train, in 1906, leaving a widow and two children; Tony is in Glenwood township and Milton at Odell; Mary is the wife of Ed. Pribyl, of Marshall county, Kansas; William and Joe reside in Glenwood township; and Charles and Christina are still at the parental home. One child, named Joe, died at the age of ten months.

In politics Mr. Shalla is a Democrat, and, though he has never aspired to or held public office in the generally accepted meaning of that term, he has not been remiss in the duties of a voter and citizen, and has given efficient service as moderator of the school district, treasurer of the same and as road overseer. The success that has come to Mr. Shalla is the result of his own industry and intelligently directed efforts, and his life has been so ordered that he can look upon the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

RICHARD WHITTON. — The subject of this memoir was one of the honored pioneers and public-spirited citizens of Barneston township. He was born at Enniskerry, County Wicklow, Ireland, February 17, 1846, and was a son of William and Hannah Ann (Buckley) Whitton, who immigrated to America in 1848 and after a short stay in Philadelphia established their home in Watertown, Wisconsin. The father died when Richard was sixteen years old. The son remained with his widowed mother, helping her to care for a family of five children until he was 27 years old. He then left home and went to Illinois, where he worked on a farm. He told his mother that if she ever needed help to let him know. She called on him just once and he sent her fifteen dollars, the sum she asked for.

In 1878 Mr. Whitton came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased eighty acres of land in Barneston township. This section of the county had but recently opened for settlement and was a part of the Otoe Indian reservation. He bought forty acres more when he was able, made good improvements on his land and continued to be engaged in farming until his death, June 3, 1915. He was a charter member of the Protestant Episcopal church at Wymore, and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with which he became affiliated when he was twenty-one years of age.

August 13, 1884, recorded the marriage, at Wymore, of Mr. Whitton to Miss Lucinda Mathews, who was born in Warren county, Pennsylvania, December 22, 1860, a daughter of Ansel K. and Barbara (Dias) Mathews, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and who, in 1868, became residents of Fremont county, Iowa: in 1882 they settled in Barneston township, Gage county, Nebraska. They were residents of Wymore, this county, at the time of their death.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitton became the parents of six children: Richard Ansel Harrison married Sadie Bucy, and they reside in Colorado; Celia Etta, is the wife of Dell B. Colgrove, of Paddock township; Hannah Barbara, is the wife of Willard Fowler, of Atchison, Kansas; Misses Julia Fern, Ruth Elizabeth and Laura Rose Estelle are with their mother on the old farm.

Richard Whitton was a very public-spirited citizen, always ready to serve his community when duty called him. He was school treasurer for twenty-one years, and a moderator for over thirty-one years. He was township treasurer several years ,and active in the public affairs of the county.

GEORGE F. RICHARDS. — In the spring of the year 1872 it was no stately caravan that made its appearance in Gage county to herald the arrival of the late George F. Richards, for, with his wife and children, he had made the overland trip from Rock Island county, Illinois, with the then familiar transportation equipment of team and covered wagon, — virtually the old-time "prairie schooner" outfit. Mr. Richards here purchased of his

brother-in-law, Noyes Elliott, an embyonic farm of eighty acres, in Rockford township. After making plans for the reclamation and improvement of this property Mr. Richards returned with his family to Illinois, and the little itinerant group transported by the same team and wagon arrived at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in time to celebrate at that point the 4th of July. The journey was thence continued back to the old home in Illinois, and in the following autumn the journey to Gage county was again made and the home was established on the pioneer farm. Mr. Richards utilized characteristic energy and circumspection in the development of his farm, and the little one-room house which he erected as the family domicile is now an integral part of the commodious and attractive house which marks his old homestead and which is still occupied by the venerable widow of Mr. Richards, she having here maintained her residence for the long period of more than forty-five years. Mr. Richards continued as one of the representative farmers and valued citizens of Rockford township until his death, which occurred November 27, 1893, and he is entitled to this tribute for the effective part which he played in connection with the civic and industrial advancement of Gage county. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party and he was a man whose character and ability gained to him unqualified popular esteem.

In Rock Island county, Illinois, Mr. Richards settled when he was a young man. He was born in Clermont county, Ohio, May 31, 1837, a son of James and Rachel (Disney) Richards, who were natives of Maryland and who became pioneers in the Buckeye state, where they passed the residue of their lives. In Rock Island county, Illinois, Mr. Richards continued his association with agricultural enterprise until his removal to Nebraska, and there, on the 12th of August, 1858, he wedded Miss Hannah Elliott, who was born in Alleghany county, New York, February 17, 1841, and who was but three years old when her parents removed to Illinois, in 1844, and settled on a farm in Rock Island county, near the Mercer county line. They made the long overland trip with team and wagon and while en route over the Illinois prairies, when in the vicinity of La Salle, they gained news of the capture of the murderers of Colonel Davenport, who had been killed on July 4th of that year. Mrs. Richards was reared under the influences of the pioneer farm in Illinois and thus was the better fortified when, in later years, she was called upon to meet the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life in Nebraska, where she bravely took up her duties as chatelaine of the modest little home and cared for her family with unceasing devotion. This venerable pioneer woman recalls many interesting incidents relative to the pioneer days in Gage county, and not the least of these was that the first crop which her husband raised on the new farm was entirely destroyed by grasshoppers. She has lived to enjoy the opulent prosperity that now marks this favored section of the state and in the tranquil evening of her life finds that her "lines are cast in pleasant places." In this concluding paragraph is given brief record concerning her children: Sarah, who became the wife of Frank W. Lillie, is deceased; Silas F. is a prosperous farmer in Sherman township and is individually mentioned on other pages; Clarence is a resident of the city of Omaha; Nellie died at the age of sixteen years; Jennie is the wife of John Leming, of Belgrade, Nebraska; Louis is a representative farmer in Sherman township and is the subject of a personal sketch elsewhere in this volume; and the seventh child died in infancy.

LOUIS KLOEPPER. — In Clatonia township Mr. Kloepper is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres and he has long been numbered among the substantial farmers of the county that has been his home from childhood and to which he came with his parents prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood. In later years he has given special attention to the breeding of red polled Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, and in this department of farm enterprise he has been notably successful.

Mr. Kloepper was born near Portmouth,

Ohio, on the 31st of March, 1862, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Reller) Kloepper, concerning whose nine children the following brief record may be given: Henry is a resident of Holt county, this state; John is deceased; William is living retired in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mrs. Lena Gutzmer and her husband reside in Lincoln, Nebraska; Herman is a resident of Clatonia township; Charles is deceased; Louis, of this review, was the next in order of birth; Frank is deceased; and Mrs. Anna Sable is a resident of the state of Kansas. The father was born and reared in Hanover, Germany, the year of his birth having been 1835, and he was a young man when he came to America and established his residence in Ohio. There he followed various lines of work until 1866, when he set forth with his family for Nebraska Territory. Proceeding to St. Louis, the family came by steamboat up the Missouri river to Nebraska City, and from that point the journey was continued by team and wagon to Martel, Lancaster county. There the family remained one year and the father then took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in what is now Clatonia township, Gage county. This land, constituting the southeast quarter of Section 33, he broke up by means of ox teams, and the original family home was a primitive dugout of the type used by many of the other pioneer settlers, Nebraska City at that time being the nearest market, and a week or more being required to make the trip to and from that trading point with the ox team. Henry Kloepper and his brave and devoted wife passed through the hardships and trials incidental to droughts and grasshopper scourges in the early days, but looked with hope and confidence to the future and finally found their efforts crowned with peace and prosperity. Mr. Kloepper continued as one of the honored pioneer farmers of the county until his death, in 1895, and both he and his wife were earnest members of the German Methodist church. Mrs. Kloepper was born in Germany and was a young girl when she made the voyage to America and joined her brother in Ohio, where her marriage was later solemnized. She was nearly seventy years of age at the time of her death, in 1901.

Louis Kloepper was about four years old at the time of the family removal to Nebraska and was reared to maturity on the pioneer farm in Clatonia township, his early education having been gained in the primitive log-cabin school house and by instruction received in the home of John Henry Steinmeyer. As a boy he assisted in keeping the oxen in the furrow while his father was plowing and with increasing capacity he assumed his full share of the labors of the farm. In 1887, after having previously farmed on land rented from his father, he purchased from the latter his present well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and thus he has continued a resident of Clatonia township since his boyhood, the while he has won success and independence through his well directed industry. He is a Republican in politics, is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife are active members of the German Methodist church in Clatonia township, he being a trustee of the same.

In August, 1887, Mr. Kloepper wedded Miss Carrie Menke, daughter of the late Henry Menke, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume. Mrs. Kloepper was born near Portsmouth, Ohio, February 9, 1866, and was a child at the time of her parents' removal to Gage county, Nebraska. Arthur, firstborn of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Kloepper, died at the age of twenty years; Lulu remains at the parental home, as does also Norma; and Jennie died at the age of two years. In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Kloepper adopted two children, Henry and Grace, whom they are rearing as their own and who accord to them true filial affection.

RAYMOND LANCASTER. — The family tree of Raymond Lancaster is rooted in the mother country of England, from which the grandparents migrated to America and settled in Macoupin county, Illinois. The family tree has spread out amongst the American born to such an extent that it is now more American than English in its branches. Ray-

mond Lancaster is a son of William and Mary (Hovey) Lancaster. William Lancaster was a son of Frank and Harriet Lancaster, and was a lad of six years when his parents came from England to this country. The parents used their talents and energies in winning to fertility the willing soil of Macoupin county, Illinois, in which state they passed the remainder of their lives. They left their sons and daughters to play equally useful parts on the stage of life's activities. Their son William married Mary Hovey, who was born in Massachusetts and came to Illinois with her parents. William and Mary (Hovey) Lancaster became the parents of seven children, five of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster continued their residence in Illinois until their death.

Raymond Lancaster was born June 21, 1865, in Macoupin county, Illinois. There he attended the district schools, and early began to assist his father in the work of buying and feeding large herds of cattle for the market. When he started out from the parental home he followed the same line of enterprise in an independent way. In 1887 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where, in company with his brother Edward, he engaged in feeding cattle, near Holmesville. In 1900 he purchased two hundred acres of land, in Section 20, Rockford township, and here he has since successfully given his time and attention to general farming.

In Gage county, in 1890, was solemnized the marriage of Raymond Lancaster to Miss Nettie Cripe, who was born April 6, 1868, in Macoupin county, Illinois. She is a daughter of Adam and Susan (Troyer) Cripe, who are residents of Rockford township. Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster have four children: William A. is married and has two children, Dean and Everett; Ruth is at the parental home; Leta is the wife of George L. Harris, farmer of Rockford township; and Arless is at home.

Mr. Lancaster and family are members of the Brethern church, and Mr. Lancaster votes the Democratic ticket. He has never sought political honors, his time being devoted entirely to his farming operations.

S. B. AYRES, a veteran and popular locomotive engineer on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, maintains his home in the city of Beatrice and is familiarly known to his host of friends as "Curly" Ayres. He has the distinction at the present time of being the only living witness of the historic Indian massacre at Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and his reminiscences relative to other incidents of the pioneer days are specially graphic and interesting.

Mr. Ayres was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of August, 1848, and is a son of J. L. and Patience M. (Vincent) Ayres, both natives of the state of New York and both of staunch Scottish lineage, both families having been founded in New England in the early colonial period of our national history. After their marriage the parents of the subject of this review removed from the old Empire state to Pennsylvania, where they remained until coming to the west as pioneers, the father having attained to the patriarchal age of ninety-three years and the mother having been eighty-six years of age at the time of her death. J. L. Ayres became one of the very early settlers of Gage county, Nebraska, where he established his residence in 1857 and where he obtained one hundred and sixty acres of land in recognition of his gallant service as a soldier in the Mexican war. He remained on his frontier farm about eighteen years and then removed to Beatrice, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their long and worthy lives, both having been members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he having been first a Whig and later a Democrat in politics. Of the seven children four are living: A. W. is a prosperous rancher and cattle-grower near Douglas, Wyoming; George is a hardware merchant at Deadwood, South Dakota; S. B. is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Amanda Reed is the one surving daughter.

S. B. Ayres was a lad of nine years when the family home was established in Gage county, and in the pioneer schools he obtained his educational discipline thereafter, it having been his privilege to walk a distance of four

and one-half miles from his home to attend school at Blue Springs. As a youth he became a driver of a stage on one of the old-time routes, and for some time he was in the employ of the quartermaster's department of the government service. He went farther to the west and for fifteen years was engaged in teaming and other occupations, he having been only sixteen years of age when he left the parental home to assume his independent activities. In 1872 Mr. Ayres identified himself with railway service, by taking a position as locomotive firemen on the Union Pacific. In the following year his ability led to his advancement to the position of engineer and during the long intervening years he has continued as a locomotive engineer on the lines of the Union Pacific, with a record that reflects honor upon him and that marks him as one of the veterans in the employ of this great railroad company. He still owns his father's old homestead farm, in Island Grove township, and in his youth he gained wide and varied experience in connection with frontier life. In this connection it may be noted that he was the second person to be engaged as mail carrier in this part of Nebraska, he having taken the mail on horseback from Nebraska City to Beatrice and also between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Beatrice, and to White Cloud, Kansas. He was in close touch with the various Indian troubles of 1864, and with the Apache outbreak in Wyoming, in 1869, besides having been, as previously intimated, a witness of the Indian massacre at Fort Kearney. He established his residence in Beatrice in 1884, and in 1890 he wedded Miss Lucy Uter, who was born in Ripley county, Indiana, a daughter of Otto and Hannah (Clark) Uter. Mr. Uter was born and reared in Germany and upon coming to America he settled in Indiana, having learned in his native land the trade of harnessmaker. For a time he was employed at the Long View Insane Asylum, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and finally he came with his family to the west and became a pioneer farmer in Marshall county, Kansas, where he and his wife passed the rest of their lives. Thomas Clark, father of Mrs. Uter, was born on the island of St. Helena, and became well acquainted with the great Napoleon when that historic man was held in captivity at St. Helena. Mr. and Mrs. Ayres have two children: Vern Uter Ayres, who was born May 24, 1891, was graduated in the Beatrice high school, attended the University of Nebraska one year and at the time of this writing he is in one of the training camps in which the flower of young American manhood is being prepared for service in the great European war. He is now at Talliaferro Field, No. 1, Fort Worth, Texas. He has been twice promoted, having won his commission as lieutenant at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, Illinois, and he is now an aeroplane instructor at Talliaferro Field. Prior to entering the government military service he had been for two years a student in the Chicago Medical College. Ruth was graduated in the Beatrice high school, as a member of the class of 1917, and remains at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Ayres and their daughter are members of the Christian church.

In politics Mr. Ayres is a Democrat, and he has been long affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, his local membership being in the blue lodge and chapter in Beatrice and the chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, in which his wife served eight years as treasurer. He has been an active member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers since 1878 and has passed the various official chairs in the same.

FRANK WANDERSEE. — The home farm of Frank Wandersee presents the appearance of a little village, and one can hardly realize the changes that have taken place since he and his wife came here, thirty-nine years ago. His life record emphazises what may be accomplished by a willingness to work and a determination to succeed.

Mr. Wandersee was born in the province of Pomerania, Germany, November 10, 1853. His father, Martin Wandersee, passed his entire life in Germany. Mr. Wandersee does not remember ever having seen his mother nor does he know her family name. He was

reared and educated in his native land and when nineteen years of age came to the United States, sailing from Bremen and landing in New York city, after a voyage of eleven days. His wordly possessions were only a few dollars, and it was necessary for him to find employment that would yield him a living. He made his way to Rochester, New York, and for five years thereafter he was employed at farm labor, in the meanwhile learning the language and customs of the country of his adoption. In 1877 he made his way westward to Nebraska, and here for two years he worked at whatever he could find to do, at Beatrice. An old settler, John Ellis, owned considerable land in Gage county, and he prevailed upon Mr. Wandersee to purchase two hundred acres in Section 17, Sicily township. This Mr. Wandersee did in the fall of 1878, and in the spring of 1879, he established himself on the farm. The only improvements at that time were a little upright board shanty — made of native cottonwood lumber, the logs having been sawed at Blue Springs — and a prairie stable made of poles set in the ground and covered with hay. Some time later he sold forty acres of this land, but in a few years he bought an additional eighty acres, so that to-day he is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land. He raises the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate and in his pastures are found a good grade of cattle, each branch of his business yielding him a substantial income.

At Beatrice, in 1878, Mr. Wandersee married Miss Caroline Wandersee, who was born in the same German province as was her husband, her natal day being July 31, 1850. She was reared in her native land and came to America two years after Mr. Wandersee crossed the ocean. She has been with her husband all of these intervening years, sharing in the trials and hardships of the early days as well as in the hopes realized and the pleasures that have come to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Wandersee have become the parents of eight children, as follows: Frank H., who married Miss Susan Lewis, is a farmer in Sicily township; Henry A. married Miss Augusta Kauffman and is a farmer in Kansas; Edward, Nellie, Ben and Annie all remain at the parental home; Albert died at the age of two and one-half years; and Emma, who became the wife of J. B. West, died in June, 1917, leaving four children, one of whom, a winsome little child, is in the home of the maternal grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Wandesee were reared in the Lutheran faith and belong to the church of that denomination at Beatrice.

In Sicily township are left but few of the old settlers who were here when Mr. and Mrs. Wandersee settled on the new farm. The success that has come to this sterling pioneer couple was won through their own efforts, as they started out empty-handed. They are folk of genuine personal worth and are held in high esteem by all who know them.

JOHN H. HELMKE is one of the substantial and honored citizens of Gage county who has accumulated in Nebraska a large and valuable landed estate. In this county he is the owner of four hundred acres of well improved and productive land in Highland township, including his attractive home place, in Section 29, and in Holt county he owns three hundred and twenty acres. On his homestead he has as his efficient coadjutor in agricultural and live-stock enterprise his youngest son, and they give each season an average of one hundred acres to the raising of corn.

Mr. Helmke was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, which has given a fine quota of sterling citizens to Gage county, and the date of his nativity was June 18, 1854. He received his early education in the excellent schools of his native land and there, in accord with governmental rules, he served a term in the German army as a youth. He is a son of Henry and Margaret (Schluter) Helmke, who passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father was a prosperous Hanovarian farmer: he was born in 1826 and died in 1906, his wife having been born in 1828 and her death having occurred in 1904. Of the twelve children the firstborn died in infancy and the subject of this sketch was the

MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. HELMKE

next in order of birth; Alice is the wife of John Freese and they remain in Germany; Henry is a prosperous farmer of Clatonia township, Gage county; Dietrich resides in his native land, as does also Herman; William is a resident of Murray county, Minnesota, Frederick is deceased; Mrs. Rebecca Schale remains in Germany; Dora and Martha are deceased; and Frederick (second of the name) is a resident of Murray county, Minnesota.

John H. Helmke was an ambitious and self-reliant young man of about twenty-nine years when he severed the ties that bound him to the fatherland and came to America, in the spring of 1883. He settled in Lancaster county, Nebraska, and he came to Gage county in 1890. After having been employed the first year as a farm hand he rented a farm in Highland township, where he continued his activities under these conditions for the ensuing four years. He then purchased his present homestead place of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he erected good buildings and made other improvements that mark it as one of the model farms of Highland township. With the increasing prosperity resulting from his indefatigable efforts, Mr. Helmke continued by degrees to make further investments in Gage county land, and here his now extensive farm property is unexcelled in general improvements, in productiveness and in general evidences of thrift and prosperity. On his Holt county land he likewise has made good improvements, and the same is under the active management of his two sons. As a loyal citizen he has done his part in supporting movements for the general good of the community; he is independent in political affiliation and he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church in Clatonia township.

On the same vessel that transported Mr. Helmke to America in 1883 came Miss Martha Warnke, who was born in Hanover, Germany, December 11, 1862, and their mutual regard reached its climax when, on the 9th of March, 1884, their marriage was solemnized, in Gage county. Their gracious union has been blessed by these children: Ella is the wife of Henry Messman, of Highland township; Margaret, who became the wife of George Oltman, of this county, is deceased, as is also Henry, the next in order of birth; John and Richard have supervision of their father's farm property in Holt county; Lena is housekeeper for her brother John; and Herman and Amelia remain at the parental home. In 1891 Mr. and Mrs. Helmke made a most pleasing visit to their native land, where they renewed the associations of their earlier years, but the experience did not in the least abate their appreciation of America and of the state and county of their adoption.

GEORGE S. HARRIS, who resides in a beautiful home at Blue Springs, is one of the early settlers of Gage county and for many years was actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, meeting with the success which enables him to lay aside active labor and live in honorable retirement.

Mr. Harris is a native of Ireland, born April 6, 1853. His parents, John and Margaret (Monroe) Harris, immigrated from the Emerald Isle to America in 1853 and after a residence of seven years in Ohio settled in LaPorte county, Indiana. John Harris became a successful farmer, and he continued his residence in Indiana until his death. His widow was killed in a cyclone, near Holmesville, Nebraska, in 1904. Both were members of the Christian church and were persons of sterling character.

George S. Harris was the third in a family of ten children and was reared on a farm in Indiana, where he attended the public schools until he had attained to the age of seventeen years. He then found employment as clerk in a grocery and dry-goods store, and he held this position seven years. In 1876 he was united in marriage to Miss Aminta Harpster, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, a daughter of Frederick Harpster.

In 1877 Mr. Harris and his young wife came to Gage county, Nebraska, and here he secured a lease on eighty acres of state land. In the spring of 1878 he settled on the land and began farming. He later bought the property

and there he continued operations until 1883, when he sold the farm and purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Barneston. This place was the stage of his activities as a farmer and stock man until he retired to Blue Springs, in 1897. For ten years after coming to Blue Springs he bought and shipped stock. Mr. Harris is to-day the owner of two good farms, — one of two hundred and twenty-two acres in Blue Springs township, and a tract of two hundred and forty acres in Rockford township. In the early days he hauled hogs to Marysville, Kansas, thirty miles away and sold them for two dollars and seventy-five cents a hundred weight. Rather than sell corn for fifteen cents a bushel he fed it to his live stock and no doubt reaped a better return than from its sale. In 1898 Mr. Harris was associated in the organization of the Blue Springs State Bank, of which he has since continued a stock-holder and director.

Mr. Harris is a Republican in politics and efficiently served as member of the school board. Fraternally he holds membership in the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges, with which latter fraternity he has been affiliated since he was twenty-one years of age. He holds office in each of the lodges. With no unusual advantages at the beginning of his career, by industry and good management he has accummulated a competence which places him among the men of influence in Gage county.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of two daughters: Ada is the wife of Homer Knight, head miller at Black Brothers' mills at Blue Springs, and they have two children, Elwood H., and Helen M., and the younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris is Mabel, who still remains at the parental home.

THEE T. JURGENS, who has won independence and prosperity through his own ability and well directed efforts, is now the owner of a valuable landed estate of five hundred and sixty acres in Gage county, and his attractive homestead farm is in Section 36, Hanover township. He was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, November 20, 1868, the third in order of birth of the five children born to Thee H. and Anna (Dutzman) Jurgens, the former of whom was born in 1833 and the latter in 1830. The parents were in most modest financial circumstances in their native land and finally, about 1882, they came to America and established their home in Gage county, where the father still resides, the mother having passed away in 1913. After farming on rented land a number of years Thee H. Jurgens purchased eighty acres in Hanover township, where he reclaimed and improved a good farm, the same being now owned by his youngest son, John T., with whom he makes his home. He is one of the honored pioneer citizens of Gage county and is an earnest member of the German Lutheran church, as was also his wife.

Thee T. Jurgens early began to make his own way in life and of the family record in his youth it may be said, as Abraham Lincoln spoke of his own family, that it constituted "the short and simple annals of the poor." He was afforded in his native land but limited educational advantages, but in the intervening years he has profited fully by the lessons gained under the direction of the wise headmaster, experience. After the family home had been established in Gage county Mr. Jurgens herded cattle on the prairies and worked as a farm hand, taking no time for recreation but working diligently and with ever quickening ambition. Finally he rented a farm, and later he made his first purchase of land, — a tract of eighty acres, in Hanover township. This was the nucleus around which, with increasing prosperity, he has evolved his present well improved and valuable landed estate of five hundred and sixty acres, and on his homestead place he erected in 1915 his present commodious and attractive house, which is modern in design and appointments. The other farm buildings are of excellent order and the entire appearance of his farm property gives evidence of thrift and prosperity.

In 1895 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jurgens to Miss Elsabe Johnson, who was born and reared in this county, where her

father, William Johnson, settled about 1872 and where he became a substantial farmer: he was born in Germany and upon coming to America settled in Illinois, where he remained until his removal to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Jurgens have nine children, all of whom remain at the parental home: Thee J., Anna, William, Henry, Marie, Grace, Tina, Theda, and Elsie.

Mr. Jurgens is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party and has held various township offices, including that of treasurer. He and his family are active members of the German Lutheran church and the pleasant home is known for its gracious hospitality and good cheer.

WILLIAM R. ROOT was one of those strong and resourceful young men who did well his part in connection with civic and industrial development and progress in Gage county in the pioneer period of its history, and he was one of the substantial landholders and farmers of the county at the time of his death, which occurred on the 29th of September, 1915.

Mr. Root was born in the state of Pennsylvania, April 18, 1855, and was there reared and educated. At the age of eighteen years he turned his face to the west and made his way to Montgomery county, Iowa, where he found employment at farm work and where he later engaged in farming in an independent way. There he continued his residence until 1878, when he came to Nebraska and established his permanent home in Gage county. He purchased eighty acres of unimproved school land, in Section 36, Rockford township, and here he developed and improved a fine farm, the while he bore with fortitude the discouragements and trials that faced him in his advancing course, and with determined purpose continued his worthy endeavors until he had become the owner of a well improved farm estate of two hundred acres. After his retirement from the arduous labors that were so long his portion he passed the closing years of his life in the home of his son Elmer L., of whom individual mention is made on other pages.

Mr. Root was signally loyal and true in all the relations of life, and thus merited and commanded the high regard of his fellow men. His first wife died when comparatively a young woman and left him with small children, and later he endured the bereavement of losing by death his second wife. His landed estate was devised to his surviving children. Frederick L. and Elmer L. are both representative young farmers of this county and both of them are specifically represented elsewhere in this publication. In politics Mr. Root gave his allegiance to the Republican party.

As a young man Mr. Root married Miss Anna Wenrick, who likewise was born in Pennsylvania, and she is survived by three sons, Frederick L., Elmer L., and Charles L. For his second wife Mr. Root wedded Miss Mary Brubaker, who was born in the state of Tennessee and whose parents were pioneers of Gage county. She passed to the life eternal in 1894, and the one child of this union, Grant L., died at the age of eleven years.

FRED KLAUS.—The subject of this sketch is a well-to-do farmer residing on Section 33, Paddock township, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres. This place has been the home of the Klaus family for the past twenty-six years. The parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Loemker) Klaus, were born in the province of Hanover, Germany and were married there. In 1880 they came to the United States and made their way to Washington county, Kansas, where some of their relatives had established homes on what had been an Indian reservation. After a short stay Henry Klaus decided to try other means to make a living for his family, and went to Cleveland, Ohio, where for three years he found employment as teamster for a large casket manufacturer. In 1883 he again came to Kansas and after renting land for a time he there purchased eighty acres. Erecting a little frame house of but one room, he set about to develop a farm. Six years later he crossed the line into Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres. This was an improved farm, though none of

the old buildings remain at the present time, as they have been replaced by more modern and substantial structures.

Henry Klaus, who was born December 23, 1840, and thus is now in his seventy-eighth year, still makes his home on the farm. His wife, born August 3, 1833, passed away March 21, 1913. In this family were four children, all born in Germany. Three are still living, one having passed away in the old country. Mary is the widow of Fred Wasserman and resides with her son in Barneston township. Lizzie is the wife of Fred Schramm, residing in Washington county, Kansas; Fred, the youngest, was born June 18, 1871. He was reared on a farm and has always been with his father. Several years ago he bought the old home place and he has been operating it since that time.

Fred Klaus married Anna Riggert, who was born in Washington county, Kansas, and is a daughter of August and Minnie (Germer) Riggert, natives of Germany. The parents were among the early settlers of Washington county, Kansas, where the father still resides, but the mother has passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Klaus are the parents of eight children, all under the parental roof. Their names are: Martin, Minnie, Anna, Herbert, Ernst, Martha, Sophia and Olinda. The family are members of the Lutheran church and are among the highly esteemed people of the community. Mr. Klaus votes the Republican ticket and has been a member of the school board many years.

THOMAS WILLIAMS. — Coming with his parents to Nebraska in the year that marked the admission of the state to the Union, the late Thomas Williams was at the time a young man whose character, education and ambitious purpose well equipped him for assuming the duties and responsibilities of the pioneer. He reclaimed and developed one of the excellent farms of the county and since his death, which occurred April 29, 1913, his widow has remained on the old homestead, in Section 6, Logan township, and has proved efficient and successful in its management.

Thomas Williams was born in England, August 13, 1841, a son of Thomas and Mary Williams, who came to America in 1850 and established their residence in the state of New York, whence they later removed to Walworth county, Wisconsin. The family home was thereafter maintained in the Badger state until 1867, when removal was made to the new state of Nebraska. Thomas Williams, Sr., purchased three hundred acres of land in Gage county and, with the aid of his sons, began the reclaiming and improving of the proprety, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives on this pioneer homestead. The subject of this memoir acquired his rudimentary education in his native land and was about nine years of age at the time of the family immigration to the United States. He thereafter attended school at Waterville, New York, and as he was a man of studious habits, reading wisely and well in later years, he rounded out a broad and symmentrical education. With characteristic vigor and ability he identified himself with progressive farm industry after coming to Gage county, and at the time of his death he was the owner of an admirably improved and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres, — the homestead on which his widow still resides and one that is endeared to her by the gracious memories and associations of the past. Mr. Williams was a man of the highest principles and exemplified the best in communal citizenship. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and while he had no ambition for public office his civil loyalty was shown in his efficient service as a member of the school board of his district. He was reared in the faith of the Church of England and in America continued his affiliation with the United States church of the same faith, the Protestant Episcopal, his widow being an active member of the Baptist church, with which she has been identified since her girlhood.

On the 11th of January, 1870, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Williams to Miss Elizabeth Horton, who was born at Burlington, Wisconsin, and whose education was re-

ceived in the schools of Kenosha county, that state. She is a daughter of Richard and Jane (Lloyd) Horton, both natives of Wales, the father having been of English and the mother of Welsh ancestry. Upon coming to the United States Mr. and Mrs. Horton first established their home in Racine county, Wisconsin, but later they removed to Kenosha county, where he became the owner of a large landed estate and was a successful farmer, both he and his wife having continued their residence in Wisconsin until their death. Of their six children all are living except one: Frank resides at Union Grove, Wisconsin; Harvey is a resident of Racine county, that state; Miss Mary maintains her home at Union Grove; Nellie is married and resides in the city of Boston, Massachusetts; and Mrs. Williams, widow of the subject of this memoir, is the eldest of the number.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams became the parents of a fine family of three sons and five daughters: Rose is the wife of John Day, a retired farmer residing in the village of Adams, this county; Mary Jane is the wife of John Winkle, of Midland township; Frank Eugene is a prosperous farmer in Logan township, as is also Richard; Nellie is the wife of Olin German, of Midland township; Rebecca is the wife of Clarence Taylor, of the same township; Iva is the wife of Arthur Heaston, of Riverside township; and Thomas remains with his widowed mother, he having active charge of the old home farm.

JOSEPH CACEK, Jr. — When a lad sixteen years of age the subject of this record kept bachelor hall in a shanty about the size of a chicken coop, and with oxen broke the land which his father had recently purchased in Paddock township. This was the year following the opening of the Otoe Indian reservation for settlement. When he was twenty-one years of age that shanty again served as his home while he was breaking the prairie land he had recently purchased for himself. Mr. Cacek is a member of one of the pioneer families of Paddock township, being a son of Joseph Cacek, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Cacek was born in Bohemia, November 11, 1862. He was but five years old when the family home was made in America, his parents becoming early settlers in Gage county, Nebraska. His boyhood and youth were spent in this county. When twenty-one years of age Mr. Cacek became the owner and began the improvement of a new farm in Paddock township, and on this place he resided nine years. To-day he is the owner of one hundred and twenty-one acres, having given his eldest son a farm of eighty acres. The home of our subject is one of the best in the township. Cement walks around the house, good fences and splendid buildings are evidences of the thrift and enterprise of the owner.

Mr. Cacek completed arrangements for his home by marriage to Miss Pauline Synovec, also a native of Bohemia. They have four children, as follows: Joseph married Catherine Varuska and they have two children, Arthur and Agnes. Frank married Mary Dovrak and they have four children, Anna, Harry, Eugene and Rudolph. Victor and Anna remain at the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cacek were reared in the faith of the Catholic church, but at the present time are members of none, though they now incline towards Protestanism. In politics he is a Democrat. For forty years Mr. Cecek has been a resident of Paddock township and he has contributed his full share to the march of progress from the days of the sod house and ox team to those of the beautiful homes and the automobiles of the present time.

HOWARD CARPENTER, who is now a progressive and successful farmer and stockgrower in Rockford township, has been a resident of Gage county since childhood and is a scion of the third generation of the family in this section of Nebraska. Details concerning the family history appear on other pages, in the sketch of the career of his father, J. D. Carpenter.

Howard Carpenter was born in Butler county, Kansas, August 27, 1883, and was about five years old at the time of the family removal to Gage county, Nebraska, where he

was reared on his father's farm and acquired his early education in the public schools. He has had no inclination to abate his fealty to the basic industries of agriculture and stock-raising and through the medium of the same has achieved in his independent operations definite success. His well improved farm comprises one hundred and twenty acres and is situated in Section 2 Rockford township, about seven and one-half miles distant from the city of Beatrice, which is his postoffice address, — rural mail route No. 5. In politics Mr. Carpenter is found aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party and his progressiveness touches not only his activities as a farmer but also as a citizen.

May 3, 1909, recorded the marriage of Mr. Carpenter to Miss Mabel Sallie Armstrong, who likewise is a native of Nebraska, her father, William Armstrong, having been a pioneer of Gage county and a prosperous farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter have four children, — Hazel, Roy, Merle and Ruth.

ANDREW I. LAYTON. — The subject of this record is operating a tract of eighty acres belonging to his father-in-law, in Section 12, Glenwood township.

Andrew I. Layton is a native of Mattoon, Illinois, a son of Henry and Martha Layton, who spent their last days at Odell, Nebraska. Mr. Layton married Alice Rathbun, a daughter of James Rathbun, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Layton are the parents of three children: Arthur, Ralph and Martha, all under the parental roof.

JOHN FOSSLER was one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Nebraska at the time of his death, which occurred October 13, 1906, at his pleasant farm home, in Section 10, Logan township. He had the sterling attributes of character that make for usefulness in connection with the productive activities of life and in Gage county he developed a fine farm property. He was born in Friesland, Province of Hanover, Germany, January 20, 1838, and thus he was nearly seventy years of age at the time of his death. Mr. Fossler was reared and educated in his native land and upon coming to America, in 1876, he found employment at farm work near Brownville, Missouri, in which state he continued his residence a number of years and in which he was twice married, the one surviving child of the first marriage being John, who is now a prosperous farmer in Logan township, Gage county, there having been no children of the second marriage. In 1871 Mr. Fossler came to Nebraska and established his residence in Nemaha county, where he engaged in farm enterprise and where he encountered, as did the average pioneer, much loss and hardship incidental to droughts and grasshopper scourges. In 1883 he came with his family to Gage county and his financial resources at the time were such that he was able to make nearly full payment upon purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in Logan township. Later he bought another farm of equal area, in Section 11, and he was the owner of both of these properties at the time of his death. His original Gage county farm was unbroken prairie, with a little shanty and log stable, when it came into his possession. With the passing years he reclaimed the place to effective cultivation and made excellent improvements in the way of buildings, the attractive house which he built being still the home of his widow. He gave his attention principally to the raising of grain and his energy and good management brought to him independence and prosperity, while he at all times commanded the unqualified respect and confidence of his fellow men.

Taking loyal interest in communal affairs, Mr. Fossler was well fortified in his political convictions and was aligned in the ranks of the Republican party. He served in 1900 and 1901 as road supervisor but he had no ambition for public office or political preferment. He was an earnest communicant of the Lutheran church, as is also his widow, the latter having shared with him in the trials and hardships of pioneer life in Nebraska.

The third marriage of Mr. Fossler was solemnized in 1875, when Miss Anna Luppen became his wife. She likewise was born in

JOHN FOSSLER

MRS. ANNA FOSSLER

Friesland, Germany, the date of her nativity having been September 25, 1850. Her parents passed their entire lives in their native province and her mother attained to the remarkably venerable age of ninety-five years. In conclusion of this memoir is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Fossler: George remains with his mother on the old homestead and has the active management of the same; Jerry died September 1, 1917, at the age of thirty-three years; Anna is the wife of George Folkerts, of Logan township; Ella remains with her widowed mother; Sarah is the wife of William Jurgens, of Logan township; Emma is the wife of John Leners, of the same township; and Annie died at the age of seventeen years.

JOHN C. MEINTS was a member of one of the representative German pioneer families of Gage county, and he here won for himself a high place in popular esteem and as a citizen of ability and loyalty, his productive activities having been varied and having included close association with farm enterprise. He retired from the office of deputy clerk of Gage county within a short time prior to his death, which occurred October 9, 1914, and he was engaged in the general merchandise business in the village of Pickrell during the last two years of his life, he having been actively assisting in the store only a few days prior to his death, though he had not established his home in that village. Concerning the Meints family adequate record is given on other pages of this history.

John C. Meints was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, September 6, 1862, and he died about one month after he had celebrated the fifty-second anniversary of his birth, he having been a son of Christian J. and Grace (Dorn) Meints, who came to America when he was a child and established their home in Adams county, Illinois, where he was reared and educated. He was sixteen years of age when he came with his parents to Gage county, Nebraska, and his father located on a pioneer farm in Hanover township. About one year later he found employment as clerk in a mercantile establishment at Beatrice, and in 1888 he established his residence at Filley, this county, where for two years he conducted a general store. Shortage of crops brought financial depression in that locality and resulted in the failure of his business. Under these conditions Mr. Meints returned to Beatrice, and there he continued as a salesman in the store of Emil Lang until 1895, when he rented land in Hanover township and engaged in farming in an independent way. There he continued his activities until 1900, when he removed to his father's farm, in Holt township. There he gave his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-growing until 1912, when he was appointed deputy county clerk, under the administration of J. C. Penrod. In the same year he purchased a half interest in a general merchandise store at Pickrell, but he continued a resident on the farm until his death. He was a man of strong mentality and well fortified convictions, was a Republican in politics, was a member of the Sons of Hermann, and was an earnest communicant of the German Lutheran church, as is also his widow, who maintains her home in the village of Pickrell. After the death of the subject of this memoir, his widow continued the mercantile business at Pickrell for three years, at the expiration of which she sold the same.

October 19, 1884, Mr. Meints wedded Miss Elizabeth R. Zimmerman, who was born in Hanover, Germany, October 11, 1863, a daughter of R. R. and Johanna E. (Bless) Zimmerman, and she was fourteen years of age when she came with her parents to America, further mention of the family being made on other pages, in the sketch of the career of her brother, George E. Zimmerman. Of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Meints two died in infancy; Christian J. is a farmer in Nemaha county; Richard is similarly engaged near Virginia, Gage county; Henry and George J. likewise are exponents of farm enterprise in Gage county, the former in Hanover township, and the latter near the village of Adams; Johanna is the wife of

P. Heist, whose farm is west of Pickrell; John was killed in an automobile accident, in 1916, at the age of nineteen years; and Grace F. is the wife of William J. Parde, a farmer in Hanover township.

FRANK LISEC. — The province of Bohemia, in the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, has furnished large numbers of industrious citizens who have in a large measure aided in transforming Nebraska from a pioneer region to the high state of development of the present day. One of these is Frank Lisec, an industrious farmer of Section 33, Sicily township. He is a native of Bohemia, his natal day having been August 22, 1869, and is a son of Albert and Maria (Moravec) Lisec, who came to America when their son Frank was but fifteen months old. They settled in Washington county, Iowa, where they resided two years. They then came to Saline county, Nebraska, and numbered themselves among the early settlers of that section of the state. Pioneer conditions were in evidence on every hand and their first home was a sod house with sod roof and with no floor except the earth. They were honest and industrious folk and they spent the remainder of their lives in that county.

Frank Lisec was reared on the farm in Saline county, where he remained with his father and gave him the benefit of his services until he was twenty-five years of age. He then began his independent career as a farmer, on an improved tract of eighty acres which he purchased from his father and on which he made his home for nine years. Sixteen years ago he came to Gage county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm. By industry and good management he has extended its area until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, the place being equipped with a good set of buildings, all of which have been put there by Mr. Lisec. Here he is engaged in general farming under most favorable conditions and his success has been excellent.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Lisec married Miss Annie Hlavac, who was born at Fort Dodge, Iowa, a daughter of Frank and Maria (Hlatky) Hlavac. The parents were natives of Bohemia and after coming to America the father worked in the iron mines of Missouri, later living in Wisconsin and Iowa and still later settling in Saline county, Nebraska, where he is still living, at the age of seventy-six, his wife having passed away about one year ago. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lisec has been made happy by the birth of six children: Robert, Joseph, Stephen, Alice, Natalia, and Frankie, all of whom are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Lisec is one of the progressive, industrious, and public-spirited citizens of Gage county, and is contributing his full quota toward all measures for the upbuilding of the community in which he lives.

FRANK J. TRUXAW. — The gentleman whose name introduces this record was one of the pioneer merchants of Odell, and by good management and close application he achieved a success which enabled him to retire with a competence.

Frank J. Truxaw is a native of Austria-Hungary — born in the province of Bohemia, December 5, 1856. His parents, Frank and Maria (Folda) Truxaw, were natives of the same province, and in 1861 came with their family to the United States, settling in Washington county, Iowa, where they were farming people and where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Frank J. was one of a family of four children, all of whom are still living. He was reared on a farm and when a young man he learned the butcher business, at Washington, Iowa. In 1881 he came to Gage county and erected the fifth new building in the new town of Wymore, where he opened a butcher shop. In the fall of 1883, he established himself in the same line of business at Odell, and for many years he was one of the leading business men of the town. He early realized the value of farm lands and invested in land whenever the opportunity offered. He has owned and improved several tracts in Gage county, as well as in other parts of the country. He is

now the owner of six hundred and forty acres in Phillips county, Kansas, where he was the first to introduce alfalfa in the Prairie Dog valley, the growing of this now being a great source of income to the people of that county.

Mr. Truxaw was married to Miss Anna Sadel, a native of Bohemia. Her parents, Vancel and Mary (Jarors) Kredjl, were early settlers of Washington county, Iowa, where both passed the remainder of their lives. After coming to America they changed the spelling of the family name to Sadel. Mr. and Mrs. Truxaw are the parents of three children: Miss Mae remains at the parental home; William is married and is postmaster at Crosby, Texas, where he is also prominently identified with a telephone company; Emma is the wife of Ted Krueger, of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Mr. Truxaw and his wife and daughter occupy a beautiful home in Odell, where for thirty-five years he has been the leader in commercial and social interests of the town. He is a Democrat in politics and served for years on the town board. Mrs. Truxaw is a communicant of the Catholic church.

HERMAN F. GIESMANN has been a resident of Nebraska since 1891 and here he has so availed himself of opportunities and so effectively applied himself that he is now the owner of a well improved farm estate of three hundred and twenty acres, eligibly situated in Section 18, Holt township. He was born in East Friesland, in the extreme northwestern part of Hanover, Germany, and the date of his nativity was August 6, 1866. He is a son of Frederick and Johanna (Jung) Giesmann, who passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father was a farmer by vocation. Frederick Giesmann and his wife both died in the year 1895, he having been seventy-eight years of age and his wife having been about six years his junior. Of their eight children one is deceased and three remain in Germany. Those who live in the United States, in addition to the subject of this review, are Mrs. Franz Haferman, of Nemaha county, Nebraska; John, who is a resident of Sterling, Johnson county, this state; and Enno, who maintains his home at Humboldt, Richardson county.

Herman F. Giesmann acquired his early education in the excellent schools of his native land, where in his youth, in accordance with the laws of the nation, he served three years in the German army. He continued to be identified with agricultural operations in Germany until 1891, when, at the age of twenty-four years, he came to the United States and established his residence in Johnson county, Nebraska. After there working one year on a farm he was similarly employed two years in Nemaha county, after which he there rented a farm for one year. He then returned to Johnson county, but after having farmed on rented land for one year he came, in 1895, to Gage county. Two and one-half miles southeast of the village of Adams he rented land and engaged in independent farm enterprise. In 1898 he leased a farm in Hanover township, where he continued operations five years. He then, in 1903, purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Holt township, and this constitutes the nucleus around which, with increasing prosperity, he has evolved his present fine landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres. He has made substantial improvements on the property, including the erection of a large and modern barn, and he gives his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of good live stock, usually having an average of about sixty head of cattle and about one hundred and twenty-five head of swine. He is a shareholder in the farmers' grain elevator company at Pickrell, which village is his postoffice address. His political affiliation is with the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church.

On the 16th of November, 1894, the twentieth anniversary of the birth of his bride, Mr. Giesmann married Miss Adelheid Schmidt, who was born in Germany on the 16th of November, 1874, and who was about two years old when, in 1876, her parents, Brunke and Christena (Kuper) Schmidt, es-

tablished their home in Johnson county, Nebraska, where they passed the rest of their lives and where the father became a prosperous farmer, their family having comprised five sons and one daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Giesmann have ten children, all of whom remain at the parental home — Johanna, Herman, Frederick, Christena, Gesiena, William, Emma, John, Dora, and Henry.

GEORGE I. THOMAN, a farmer of Sicily township, was born July 21, 1877, at Freeport, Illinois. He is a son of Moses and Susan (Snyder) Thoman. Moses Thoman was born and reared in Pennsylvania and thence moved to Greene county, Indiana, where he followed his trade, that of carpenter. He later went to Illinois and settled in Stephenson county. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and settled in Gage county. He located on the northwest quarter of Section 24, Sicily township, where his son George now resides. This land formerly belonged to Jacob Thoman, a brother of Moses, and when the latter there established his residence the place was improved only with a very small frame house and a prairie stable, while only thirty-five acres of the land had been broken. Moses Thoman engaged in farming and had continued operations only a few years when he had a stroke of paralysis. As a result of this affliction he was an invalid for more than twenty years. Eleven years ago he removed to Blue Springs, and here his death occurred three years later. His widow still maintains her home in the town of Blue Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Thoman were the parents of five children, one of whom died in childhood; Louisa and Elmeda reside at Blue Springs; George I. is the subject of this review; and Alvin resides in the city of Beatrice.

George I. Thoman came to Gage county with his parents when he was about six years of age. He received his education in the country schools of the county and as a boy and young man was associated with his father in farm enterprise. For the past fifteen years he has owned and operated the farm on which he now lives and which for so many years has been the home of the Thoman family.

November 12, 1902, recorded the marriage of Mr. Thoman to Miss Ida Cooper, daughter of Benton and Sarah (Conover) Cooper, who are now residents of Blue Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Thoman have three children — Esta, Vera, and Glenn.

Mr. and Mrs. Thoman are members of the United Brethren church, and he is affiliated with the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Blue Springs. In politics he is a Republican, and he is serving at the time of this writing as a member of the school board.

JAMES M. McPHERON. — Among those who, with patriotic zeal and utter disregard of self, left all to go forth in defense of their country when the Civil war burst upon the nation, was James M. McPheron, who is now living retired in the village of Holmesville.

Mr. McPheron is a native of Tennessee, born in Greene county, June 25, 1844. His parents, Robert and Malissa Frances (Ward) McPheron, were natives of South Carolina, and were of Irish and Scotch descent. They passed away in Greene county, Tennessee. James M. was reared on a farm in his native county, fifty miles east of Knoxville. Not yet twenty-one years of age when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in the Union army, in Company I, Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry and for four years he valiantly defended the stars and stripes. He was under General Sheridan all through the Shenandoah campaign and the siege of Richmond, and his command captured Fort Gregg, the last Confederate stronghold taken before peace was declared. He saw Lee and Grant shake hands at the surrender. He was a good soldier, always at the post of duty, and went through the terrible conflict unscathed. He received an honorable discharge at the close of the war and then returned to Tennessee, where he became a farmer in Hawkins county. There he remained until 1885, when he came to Nebraska and purchased eighty acres of land in Rockford township, Gage county. This farm was the stage of his activities until he retired from active labors and moved to Holmesville,

MR. AND MRS. EVAN WILLIAMS

where he resides in one of the most attractive and comfortable homes in the village.

In Hawkins county, Tennessee, Mr. McPheron was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Berry, a native of that county, and a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Everhardt) Berry, both natives of Tennessee. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McPheron was blessed with four children, all of whom are still living, well established in homes of their own, and all living within a few miles of their parents. They are: J. H., of Rockford township; Sarah, the wife of B. A. Brubaker, of Rockford township; Ulysses G., of Sherman township; and Ellen, the wife of Miles Shaw, of Blue Springs township.

Mr. and Mrs. McPheron are devoted members of the Church of the Brethren. Though past the psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten, Mr. and Mrs. McPheron are in good health, enjoying the fruits of their former years of toil.

EVAN WILLIAMS. — In the year 1867, which marked the admission of Nebraska to the Union and its attendant emergence from the territorial regime, Evan Williams, then a youth of about nineteen years, accompanied his parents on their immigration to the new commonwealth and the family became numbered among the honored and valued pioneers of Gage county. Here Mr. Williams has continued his residence during the long intervening period. He is the owner of a finely improved farm property in this county, but is now living virtually retired in the city of Beatrice, where he and his wife occupy the attractive residence which he erected at 1211 Market street and which is a home known for its generous and gracious hospitality. As a sterling citizen who commands unequivocal popular esteem and as one of the representative pioneers of Gage county, Mr. Williams is eminently entitled to recognition in this publication.

As both his personal and family names imply, Evan Williams is a scion of Welch ancestry, and he was the first of the children born to his parents after their immigration from Wales to America, four children having been born prior to this removal from the ancestral country. Mr. Williams was born in Oneida county, New York, on the 30th of April, 1848, and thus the spring of 1918 recorded his attaining to the scriptural age of three score years and ten. He is a son of Thomas M. and Mary (James) Williams, both of whom were born and reared in Wales, where their respective parents passed their entire lives. Thomas M. Williams was born May 21, 1814, and was one of the venerable and revered pioneer citizens of Gage county, Nebraska, at the time of his death, which occurred in 1886, his loved and devoted wife, who was born in June, 1814, having survived him by about one year, she having passed to eternal rest in 1887. In the '40s Thomas M. Williams, in company with his wife and their four children, embarked on a sailing vessel of the type common to that day and set forth to establish their new home in the United States. The vessel had a tempestuous voyage and was much delayed in reaching its destination, the severe storm which it encountered en route having swept away much of the goods stored on deck, including a large part of the little personal effects of the Williams family. Mrs. Williams became severely ill on the voyage and more than a year passed ere she regained her health sufficiently to leave her bed for any appreciable interval. The family settled in the state of New York, where the father applied himself to such occupation as he could secure, and by day's work he thus provided for his family until 1856, when he removed with his family to the west and became a pioneer in Wisconsin. There he rented land and continued his active association with agricultural industry until 1867, when he came with his family to the new state of Nebraska and established a home in Gage county. In Logan township, as now constituted, he settled on a pioneer farm of two hundred and forty acres, which property he purchased for the sum of eight hundred and seventy-five dollars. Soon afterward he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Logan township for his son Evan and when the latter attained to his ma-

jority the land was deeded to him. When Mr. Williams came into possession of his property in Gage county only ten acres of the land had been broken, but with the passing years he improved the place in excellent manner and developed the same into one of the productive and valuable farm estates of this section of Nebraska. Here he and his wife passed the residue of their lives and, after having endured their full share of the hardships and vicissitudes incidental to pioneer life, they came into the full enjoyment of the gracious rewards of former toil and endeavor. In their native land both had become communicants of the Church of England and after coming to this country they allied themselves with the American representative of the same faith, the Protestant Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Williams gave his support to the cause of the Republican party and as a broad-minded and progressive citizen he took lively interest in communal affairs. He served a number of terms as a member of the school board of his district, but he had no ambition for public office. He had but small financial resources when he came to Gage county but so effectively did he avail himself of the splendid opportunities afforded in the development of the natural resources of the county that he acquired a competency, with status as one of the substantial citizens of the county. Of the ten children of these honored pioneers only four are now living — Evan, who is the immediate subject of this review; Misses Mary A. and Rosa S., who maintain a pleasant home in the city of Beatrice; and Ada, who is the wife of William R. Pethoud, a substantial farmer of Holt township.

Evan Williams was about eight years old at the time of the family removal from the old Empire state to Wisconsin, where he was reared to adult age under the conditions and influences of the farm and where he made good use of the advantages afforded in the schools of Walworth and Kenosha counties, which he attended principally during the winter terms. As a young man of about nineteen years he accompanied his parents to Gage county, Nebraska. He continued his father's able and valued assistant in the improving and cultivation of the old homestead farm, and upon the death of his father he came into possession of this valuable property. He is now the owner of a finely improved landed estate of six hundred and forty acres in Logan township and also an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. In addition to his extensive operations as a general agriculturist Mr. Williams has also been a prominent and successful exponent of the live-stock industry. He was formerly engaged extensively in the raising of live stock under the commission system, and prior to leaving his farm he there maintained at times as many as eight hundred sheep, thirty-five head of cattle, and sixteen horses. He remained on the old homestead until the time when he established his residence in the city of Beatrice, where he has since lived retired, save that he continues to give a general supervision to the management and direction of the extensive operations of his valuable farm estate, which is recognized as one of the best in Gage county.

Mr. Williams has ever been found arrayed as a stalwart and uncompromising advocate and supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and while he has not manifested any ambition for public office his civic loyalty caused him to give characteristically effective service during the three years that he was a member of the school board of the old home district and the one term that he was incumbent of the office of road supervisor.

On the 17th of June, 1903, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Williams to Miss Clara R. Pettegrew, who was born in the state of Illinois and who is a daughter of the late James M. and Rachel C. (Simmons) Pettegrew, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Pennsylvania. Within a short time after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Pettegrew removed from Indiana to Illinois, and there Mrs. Williams was born. In 1868 James Pettegrew came with his family to the new state of Nebraska and established the home in Gage county. He settled in Hanover township, where he became the owner of two sec-

tions of land, a portion of which he acquired through the medium of college script. He reclaimed and developed one of the best farm properties in the county in his day and generation, and here his death occurred in 1872. His widow long survived him and was venerable in age at the time of her demise, in 1910. These honored pioneers became the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Williams was the fifth in order of birth; Alice M. is the widow of Moru Loverige and resides in the state of Washington; Frank M. is a representative farmer in the vicinity of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Hattie A. is the widow of Stewart Lunbeck and resides at Beatrice; and James Frederick is engaged in the wholesale furniture business in the city of Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have no children.

FRANK M. WILL, whose death occurred in the year 1909, came to Gage county in the year 1891 and thereafter continued his successful association with farm enterprise in Rockford township until he was called from the stage of life's mortal endeavors, at the age of seventy years.

Mr. Will was a scion of a family early founded in the historic Old Dominion state, and claimed the same as the place of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Franklin county, Virginia, October 30, 1838. He was reared to manhood in Virginia, and in Roanoke county, that state, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Eliza Houtz, who was born and reared in that county and who survived him by eight years, her death having occurred on the old homestead farm in Rockford township, on the 11th of November, 1917. From Virginia Mr. Will removed to Woodford county, Illinois, where he continued his allegiance with farm industry until 1891, when he came to Nebraska and purchased two hundred acres of land in Gage county. Thereafter he continued as one of the substantial farmers of Rockford township until his death His political support was given to the Democratic party and both he and his wife were members of the church of Brethren in Christ — unassuming and worthy folk who lived righteous lives and merited the unqualified esteem in which they were held. Mrs. Will had one son by her first marriage, and this son, Charles E. Colwell, is a resident of Beatrice, this county. By the second marriage were born the following named children; John and William H., who reside upon the old home farm in Rockford township; Joseph J., of whom individual mention is made on other pages; Ida M., who is housekeeper for her brothers on the old home farm of the parents; Bert, who likewise is a farmer in Rockford township; and Minnie, who is the wife of Dr. L. L. Noble, a representative physician engaged in practice at Holmesville, this county.

JOHN T. WHALEN is giving special attention to the feeding of cattle, and in this department of farm enterprise he is conducting operations on a large scale, in connection with diversified agriculture. In his vigorous conducting of his industrial activities he rents four hundred and twenty acres of land, in Sections 26, 33 and 35, Highland township, and he is one of the county's progressive breeders of Holstein cattle.

Mr. Whalen was born in Woodford county, Illinois, February 6, 1863, the fourth in a family of eleven children, all of whom are living except three. He is a son of John and Margaret (Hollenhan) Whalen, who were born in Ireland and whose marriage was solemnized in the state of Massachusetts, whence they removed in an early day to Illinois. John Whalen served as a section foreman on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad for a number of years, and was thus engaged at the time the road was being constructed through Woodford county. In 1884 he came with his family to Gage county and rented land in Section 12, Holt township. He passed the closing period of his life at Cortland, and was eighty-two years of age at the time of his death, in 1906, his wife having passed away in 1899, at the age of sixty-two years. Both were earnest communicants of the Catholic church, in which connection it should be noted that they were numbered

among the organizers of the church of this denomination at Cortland.

John T. Whalen was reared on his father's farm in McLean county, Illinois, and his early education was received in the public schools of Livingston and McLean counties. He was twenty-one years of age when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, and in Gage county he assisted his father in the work of the pioneer farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-three years, when he initiated his independent operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower. During the intervening years he has conducted his operations on rented land and in 1907 he established his residence on his present farm, which is owned by Mrs. Lena F. Warren, of Omaha. In consonance with his progressive policies he has made numerous improvements on the place, including the construction of a modern silo, which has a capacity of two hundred and sixteen tons and which is owned by him. The only interruption of his activities in connection with farm enterprise was a period of about ten years, during which he was engaged in the general merchandise business at Cortland, where for four years he had charge of the grain elevator and for four years did a successful business in the buying and shipping of live stock. Mr. Whalen was one of the principal organizers of the Farmers' Elevator Company and the Farmers' State Bank at Cortland, and he has been president of the Elevator Company from the time of its organization. A man of energy and progressiveness, Mr. Whalen has applied himself diligently and consecutively and has won through his own efforts a goodly measure of success, the while he has the confidence and good will of those with whom he has come in contact in either business or social relations. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, he is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, and he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church, as members of St. James parish at Cortland.

On the 16th of February, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Whalen to Miss Etta Crosby, who was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, a daughter of Thomas and Jemima (Morrison) Crosby, who were born and reared in the state of New York, where their marriage occurred. From Illinois Mr. Crosby removed with his family to Missouri, in which state his wife died, and later he came with his six children to Gage county, Nebraska, the remainder of his life having been passed in Holt township, where he became a prosperous farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Whalen became the parents of six children: Virgie T. is a clerk in the Klein department store in the city of Beatrice; Martin G. died at the age of twenty-seven years; Jemima M. remains at the parental home; Francis T. is a successful farmer in Section 34, Highland township; and Bernard D. and Mary C. are members of the parental home circle.

FREDERICK T. SONDEREGGER, of Beatrice, was born, in Jefferson county, Nebraska, December 8, 1882, son of Carl Sonderegger, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume. Frederick received his early education in the public schools of Jefferson county, and later went to Europe, where he studied in Switzerland. He remained in Europe for eight years and in the meanwhile took a special course in the study of the nursery and seed industry. Upon his return from Europe, Mr. Sonderegger became associated with his father in the nursery and seed business in Beatrice, and with this enterprise he has been identified continuously since that time.

On August 30, 1912, Mr. Sonderegger wedded Miss Harriet Sonderegger, who is a native of Switzerland, a daughter of Meinrad Sonderegger, of that fair republic. Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger are the parents of three children — Frederick, Arnold, and Margaret.

Mr. Sonderegger is a Democrat in politics, but has never sought public office, preferring rather to devote all his time to the nursery and seed business, in connection with which he is making a pronounced success and has gained place among the prominent young business men of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger are members of the Lutheran church, of the

faith as represented by this denomination in Switzerland.

ANTON SCHEIDELER. — For the past seven years, Mr. Scheideler has been conducting a billiard hall in the city of Wymore and is well known for his progressive spirit. Mr. Scheideler was born August 28, 1887, in Gage county, Nebraska, and is the son of John and Anna (Loibl) Scheideler. A sketch of John Scheideler appears elsewhere in this volume.

Anton Scheideler was educated in the public schools of Gage county, and after finishing his education farmed for some years previously to his coming to Wymore, in 1911, and opening the billiard hall. He has an up-to-date establishment and sells tobacco, cigars, and confectionery in connection with his billiard hall.

February 11, 1914, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Scheideler and Miss Nina Miller, of Blue Springs, the home and birthplace of the bride. Her father, Oliver Miller, resides in Blue Springs, and for a number of years has been employed by the Burlington Railroad. Two children, Ruth and Ollie, have come to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scheideler.

Mr. Scheideler votes the Democratic ticket, is serving his community as one of the county supervisors, and is always taking a keen interest in all civic, social, and political affairs. Mrs. Scheideler is a member of the Christian church and he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

WILLIAM A. McMICHAEL. — Among the many progressive farmers of Blue Springs township, Mr. McMichael is considered to have done his share in adding to the general prosperity of the township.

William A. McMichael was born in Ireland, August 12, 1849, and is the son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Anderson) McMichael. They were natives of Ireland and were tillers of the soil. Andrew McMichael died in the home country and after his death, his wife immigrated to the United States. She established her home in Pennsylvania, where she passed the remainder of her life.

It was in 1867 that William McMichael located in Pennsylvania, upon his arrival in this land of opportunity. For a short time he was employed as a farm hand, but within the year he moved to Indiana, where he remained until his coming to Gage county.

The marriage of William A. McMichael and Miss Nancy Jane Harris was solemnized September 8, 1870. She is a sister of George S. Harris, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. McMichael the following record is entered: Annabelle is the wife of Pedro Gumaer, of Wymore township; Maggie May is the wife of P. R. Lewis, of Blue Springs township; Lizzie Jane is the wife of Elton Smith, of Blue Springs township.

In 1878 Mr. McMichael came to Blue Springs township, where for nine years he rented land before purchasing eighty acres of land, at twenty dollars an acre. Eleven years later he sold the property for thirty dollars an acre. He then purchased one hundred acres of land in Section 16, Blue Springs township, later selling twenty acres of this farm. Here he now resides in his newly built home, equipped with all of the conveniences to make life worth living.

The Republican party receives the political support of Mr. McMichael and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

DAVID N. BURROUGHS gained place as one of the enterprising business men of Beatrice, where his activities have been of important scope in the buying and shipping of live stock, in which special field he has given in later years much attention to the handling of horses and mules, of which he purchased six hundred head in the winter of 1917-1918.

Mr. Burroughs was born in Mills county, Iowa, on the 22d of August, 1869, and is a son of William and Sarah (Purcell) Burroughs, who came to Nebraska in the pioneer days and took a homestead claim in Jefferson county. William Burroughs was born in the state of New York and his widow is a native

of Kentucky. Mrs. Burroughs is a daughter of Andrew Purcell, and in 1918 she resides in the city of Beatrice. She is eighty-one years of age at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, and is held in affectionate regard in the county that has so long represented her home. The late William Burroughs came with his family to Jefferson county, Nebraska, in 1878, and later he established his residence upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Gage county. He developed this into one of the fine farms of the county and there he continued his activities until he sold the property and removed to the village of Fairbury. Later he established a home in Beatrice, and here he passed the remainder of his long and useful life. William and Sarah Burroughs became the parents of six children: Louise is the wife of Thomas Roach, who has long been in railway service in the city of Omaha; May is the widow of R. H. Robinson and resides in the city of Beatrice; Mattie is the wife of Wallace Weigel, yardmaster of the Union Pacific Railroad at Beatrice; David N. was the next in order of birth and is the immediate subject of this review; Henry Bryson is a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; and Della is the wife of Frank Pickner, of Omaha.

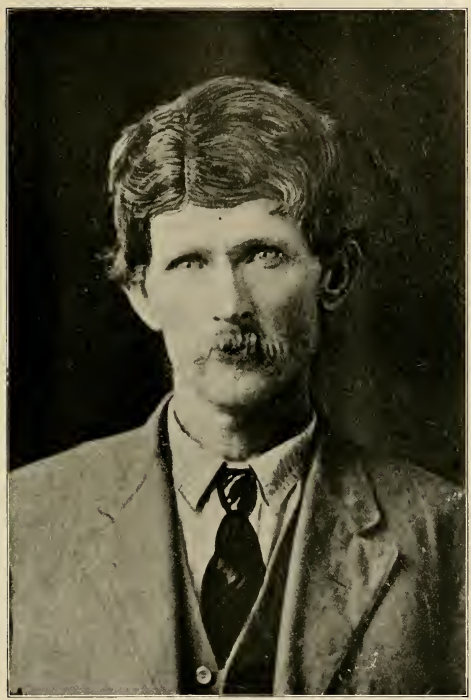
David N. Burroughs acquired his youthful education in the public schools of Beatrice and after leaving school he was identified with the meat-market business four years. He then turned his attention to the buying of horses and mules, and in this specific line of enterprise he has conducted a prosperous business for fully a quarter of a century. He has gained recognition as one of the most progressive and authoritative buyers of such stock in this section of Nebraska, and his operations have reached large volume in connection with the national preparation for participation in the great world war.

In 1892 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Burroughs to Miss Rebecca A. Busey, who was born in the state of Iowa, a daughter of John A. and Anna (Beals) Busey, natives of Pennsylvania: Mr. Busey was engaged in farm enterprise in Iowa until 1888, when he came with his family to Gage county and acquired land which he reclaimed and improved into a productive farm, his father, who likewise bore the name of John, having been a very early settler of this county, where he acquired many hundred acres of land, the estate being divided among his children after his death. For seventeen years John A. Busey, father of Mrs. Burroughs, served as a guard at the Nebraska state penitentiary, at Lincoln, and he was the incumbent of this position at the time of his death. His wife is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs have three children — Rolland and Bryson A. are now residents of the state of Wyoming, and Gladys is attending the public schools, as a student in the high school.

Mr. Burroughs is a stalwart in the camp of the Republican party, and he served for short and varying intervals as an extra deputy sheriff of Gage county. He is affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

HENRY H. FEERHUSEN. — In the years that have passed, many illustrious citizens have gone to their reward, but the impress of their lives and the evidence of their labors are to be found on every hand. Among the number whose lives and deeds should be recorded in this history of Gage county is he whose name initiates this memoir. Henry H. Feerhusen was born at Alton, Illinois, on December 12, 1861. His parents, Otto and Frances (Schoen) Feerhusen, were natives of Germany, and in 1864 they came from Illinois to Nebraska Territory. They became residents of Nebraska City, but were farming people and thus well equipped for pioneer experience and responsibilities. They spent the remainder of their lives in this state.

Henry H. Feerhusen was the oldest of a family of seven children. He was early taught the value of industry, and when quite young was thrown upon his own resources. When he left home he went in debt for a pair of overalls and a jacket. He was the sole possessor of one shoe and one boot, but was fortified in undaunted determination to succeed. In 1885 Mr. Feerhusen came to Gage



HENRY H. FEERHUSEN

county, Nebraska, and began farming as a renter in Adams township. By carefully saving his earnings he was able to invest in one hundred and sixty acres of land, wholly unimproved. He set to work improving and developing a new farm, and as the years passed he prospered in his undertaking. At the time of his death he was the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, with a good set of buildings. He dealt extensively in cattle — buying, feeding, and shipping — and in his undertakings, by the display of good judgment, he was able to accumulate a competence.

For a wife and helpmeet Mr. Feerhusen chose Miss Louisa Staack, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1869, a daughter of Henry and Lydia (Cook) Staack, both natives of Germany. The parents came to Nebraska about forty years ago and located at Nebraska City, where they were residing at the time of their death.

Mr. and Mrs. Feerhusen became the parents of seven children, as follows: Forrest died in 1912, at the age of twenty-three years; Jesse died in 1890, at the age of six months; Victor remains at home with his mother; Ira died in 1912, at the age of eighteen years; Lee is at home; Harriet is attending the Adams schools; and Velura is at the maternal home. The death of the sons Forrest and Ira, both of whom passed away in 1912, was a very severe blow to the family. They had become of great assistance to their father and were good judges of live stock as well as well versed in the best methods of farming. Grief over the loss of these two boys no doubt hastened the death of Mr. Feerhusen, who passed away April 14, 1914. His widow still resides on the old home farm, which is managed by her two sons, Victor and Lee. She is doing all in her power to accomplish what was the ambition of her husband, and her surviving children are being given every possible advantage.

Mr. Feerhusen was a devoted member of the German Lutheran church, and in politics he cast his ballot for the men and measures of the Republican party. He rendered efficient service as a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. Henry H. Feerhusen was one whose life measured up to the full standards of citizenship and manhood, and his passing called from earthly activities one whom his family and the community could ill afford to lose.

GERD GERDES has maintained his home in the United States for more than half a century, and in Gage county he has done his full share of the reclamation and development work that has made it possible for the younger generation to enjoy the fruits of the labors of the early settlers. Gerd Gerdes was born November 9, 1851, in East Friesland, Germany, and he came with his parents, Gerd and Trintye (Janssan) Gerdes, to America, the family having settled in Missouri. Concerning the family ample record is given on other pages of this history, in the sketch of John L. Gerdes.

The section of Missouri in which the Gerdes family established a home upon coming to the United States was still in a wild and uncultivated condition, the homes of only a few straggling settlers dotting the rolling prairies. In 1882 Gerd Gerdes and his brother, John L. Gerdes, came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased land in section 32, Barneston township. In 1883 they came to build their homes upon their newly purchased land. A sod house, thatched barn and the rude implements of agriculture were the means by which they set to work to wrest from nature her treasures of wheat and corn. As the years have passed and science has helped the strong arm of the farmer, the land has been more easily tilled and more productive each successive year.

Mr. Gerdes has added to his original purchase and is now the owner of two hundred acres of finely cultivated land. The crude sod hut and barn have been replaced by a good modern house and other excellent farm buildings that show the thrift and prosperity of the owner. The rude farm implements have been replaced by the modern ones, which make the work easier and more effective.

Under President Cleveland's administration Mr. Gerdes was postmaster of Aurich, Nebraska, and for many years he served as township treasurer. He is now a member of the district school board. In politics Mr. Gerdes is an advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, but he is independent in his views, and feels that if this party does not advance as good a man for candidate as the opposing party, he will vote for the better man, regardless of his party. Mr. Gerdes' sister, a widow, is making her home with him and presides over the domestic economies of the pleasant farm residence.

J. D. CARPENTER is the owner of a well improved farm estate of two hundred and forty acres in Rockford township and while he has lived virtually retired for the past decade, he has been a specially successful exponent of agriculture and live-stock industry in the county that has represented his home for somewhat more than thirty years. He now resides in the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Carpenter was born in Washington county, Maryland, May 12, 1851, and is a son of Jeremiah and Susan (Cross) Carpenter, the former of whom was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, and who attained to the patriarchal age of ninety-eight years, his wife having been born at Boonesboro, Maryland, in 1833, and having been summoned to eternal rest in 1902, he having survived her by about seven years. Their marriage was solemnized at Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and in that locality they continued to reside until they had reared their children to adult age. After the Civil war, in the early '70s, they came to the west and numbered themselves among the pioneers of Gage county. Jeremiah Carpenter purchased a farm near Pickrell and there continued his activities for a term of years, both he and his wife having been residents of the village of Ellis at the time of their death and he having been nearly eighty years of age when he left his farm and retired from the active labors that had long been his portion. This sterling pioneer couple became the parents of seven sons and two daughters and concerning those now living the following brief record is available: Henry, who was for many years engaged in contracting and building and who also achieved success as an apiarist, is now living retired in Los Angeles, California; Jonathan, a stonemason and contractor, resides at Liberty, Gage county; Theodore is a retired farmer residing in Beatrice; Levi is engaged in farming near Polo, Illinois; J. D., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Martin L. is a retired farmer residing in the city of Beatrice.

In his earlier life Jeremiah Carpenter was a Democrat in politics, but he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party about the time of its organization and ever afterward supported its principles. His father, Henry Carpenter, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and continued a resident of the old Keystone state until his death.

J. D. Carpenter gained his early education in the schools of Maryland and northern Illinois, and his first independent work in his youth was that of canvassing in the rural districts of Illinois. With the funds thus acquired he purchased ten acres of land in Noble county, that state, and after having cut and sold the timber on this tract he went to Minnesota, where he worked in the pine forests, in connection with pioneer lumber operations. There he was thus engaged during the winter seasons for a period of about five years, and in the summers he was employed on steamboats plying the Mississippi river. From Minnesota he went to Iowa, where he remained two years, and he then purchased land in Butler county, Kansas, where he continued his activities as a farmer for the ensuing thirteen years. In 1886 he came to Nebraska and established his permanent home in Gage county, where he purchased a partially improved farm of eighty acres, in Lincoln township. Two years later he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Rockford township. He has since added to his holdings until he now has a valuable estate of two hundred and forty acres. He now rents his farm property and, as before stated, is living practically re-

tired. He erected the present buildings on his farm and has made it one of the attractive rural domains of the county.

In 1882 Mr. Carpenter wedded Miss Elizabeth H. Sutton, who was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, a member of a sterling pioneer family of that commonwealth, and of the five children of this union three are living: Howard is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; Forrest is engaged extensively in cattle raising in Kearney county; Walter met his death in an automobile accident, in 1917; Milo is a resident of Logan township; and one child died in infancy. Mrs. Carpenter was called to the life eternal March 10, 1917, a gentle and gracious woman whose memory is cherished by all who knew her, and she was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The character and ability of Mr. Carpenter have made him influential in community affairs during the years of his residence in Gage county, and he has served as road overseer, besides having held for a term of years the office of justice of the peace, which under his administration was made to justify its name. In politics he is a staunch Republican.

WILLIAM P. PARDE is another of those vigorous and honored pioneers whose achievement of success and independence has been coincident with the development and progress of Gage county, and he is to-day the owner of a valuable landed estate of five hundred and forty acres. Though he is now living practically retired, he still remains on his fine farm, in Section 29, Hanover township.

Like so many other representative citizens who early established residence in Hanover township, Mr. Parde was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, the date of his nativity having been May 6, 1842. He was reared and educated in his native land and was an ambitious and self-reliant young man of twenty-five years when he came to the United States. He had no financial resources but had the sturdy courage and determination that make for advancement. Proceeding to Quincy, Illinois, he thereafter was engaged in railroad construction work for four years, within which period he accumulated sufficient capital to justify him in renting land in Adams county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming. In that state he continued his activities as an agriculturist until 1885, when he came with his family to Nebraska. He rented land five years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in Section 32, Hanover township, Gage county. He energetically initiated and carried forward the development of his farm, to the area of which he added within a few years, by the purchase of one hundred acres, in Section 29 of the same township. The passing years crowned his earnest endeavors with constantly increasing success, and he now owns, as before stated, a fine farm estate of five hundred and forty acres — all in Hanover township.

Prior to his immigration to America Mr. Parde has gained a devoted companion and helpmeet, by his marriage to Miss Tata Dorn, who was born in the province of Hanover on the 12th of February, 1833. She shared with him the trials and vicissitudes of the years in which he was striving to win independence, and November 25, 1914, they had the pleasure of celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, the occasion having been made a notable one by the appreciative interposition of their children and their many friends. Both are earnest communicants of the German Lutheran church in their home township, and in politics Mr. Parde is a staunch Democrat. For the past thirty years he has been physically handicapped, as he was so injured while at work with a threshing machine as to necessitate the amputation of his right arm. For years after this deplorable accident, however, he continued his active labors, and that with remarkable facility. His parents, Peter and Katie Parde, joined him a few years after he came to this country and they passed the closing years of their lives at Golden, Illinois. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Parde: Henry died at the age of twenty-one years; Peter died in childhood; John W. is deceased and is the subject of a memoir ap-

pearing on other pages of this work; Theda is the wife of Henry W. Ehmen, of Hanover township; Heye is a farmer in this township; Kate is the wife of Henry Remmers, of the same township; Grace is the wife of William Gronewold, of Hanover township; and Peter, who has the active management of the old homestead farm, is the youngest of the number: he wedded Miss Anna Diutsman and they have four children — William, Dena, John, and Grace.

ERNST LOEMKER. — Prominent among the successful farmers and business men of Gage county may properly be named the subject of this sketch, who owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 34, Paddock township. He is identified also with the financial interests of the county, being vice-president and a member of the board of directors of the State Bank of Odell.

Mr. Loemker was born in Hanover, Germany, November 9, 1869. His parents, Fred and Clara (Daniel) Loemker, were also natives of Hanover, were reared and married there and in 1871, having heard of the favorable opportunities to be found in America, came with their family to the United States. They made their way to the interior of the country and located on a tract of land in Marshall county, Kansas. When the Otoe Indian reservation was opened for settlement Fred Loemker there purchased a quarter-section of land, wholly unimproved. The family set about developing a new farm and amid the pioneer conditions of those days they labored and prospered. With the help of his sons the father accumulated over five hundred acres of land. He now resides on the place which has been the family home for many years, just over the line in Washington county, Kansas. They owned land in three counties, Marshall and Washington counties in Kansas and Gage county, Nebraska. The wife and mother passed away in December, 1916.

The children of this family were seven in number, as follows: Henry is a farmer of Washington county, Kansas; Ernst is the subject of this sketch; Thomas grew to maturity and married, but is now deceased; Mary is the wife of William Riggert, of Glenwood township; Sophia is the wife of Albert Sohl, of Marshall county, Kansas; Louise is the wife of Otto Meyer, of Washington county, Kansas; and Caroline remains with her father.

Ernst Loemker remained at home and assisted in the work of the farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he married and came into possession of his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres. This was part of the property purchased by his father. It was improved with a set of buildings, but these have given place to more commodious and substantial structures.

Mr. Loemker married Miss Dora Riggert, who was born in Washington county, Kansas, a daughter of Henry and Dora (Stolte) Riggert. Her parents were born in Germany and came to the United States about the same time as the Loemker family. Mr. and Mrs. Loemker are the parents of seven children, all still at home. They are: Clara, Olga, Caroline, Elza, Walter, Winnie, and Harold.

Mr. Loemker is one of the successful general farmers of his township and takes a keen interest in all things that have to do with the upbuilding of his community. The family are members of the German Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Loemker is a Republican. He was one of the organizers of the Odell State Bank and has been vice-president since that time.

GEORGE FAXON. — One of the early settlers of Gage county who gave years of earnest labor to the development of the community in which he lived, the late George Faxon merits a tribute in this work. He was born in Geneseo, Illinois, November 20, 1853, a son of John W. and Acenath (Olds) Faxon, who settled in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where the father was a merchant for several years. In 1880 the family came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased a half-section of prairie land in Glenwood township. This was improved and developed into a valuable tract and in later years the parents moved to Beatrice, where both passed away.

George Faxon came into possession of one hundred and twenty acres of the old farm and he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, April 12, 1912. In 1885 he was married, at Franklin Grove, Lee county, Illinois, to Miss Sarah Burket, a sister of A. O. Burket, of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Faxon became the parents of five children: Mary A. is the wife of J. Lyndes, of Wyoming; John died at the age of two years; Cheney L., George H., and Egbert R. are at home with their mother and are operating the farm of two hundred acres, just outside the limits of Lanham.

George Faxon was a loyal citizen, a good neighbor, a loving husband and father, and Gage county lost one of her best men when he was called to his final rest. He was a Republican in politics, and was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mrs. Faxon is an active member of the Christian church.

WILLIAM H. RUYLE, whose death occurred on the 16th of November, 1914, was a resident of Gage county for more than thirty years and became one of the prominent and successful representatives of agricultural and live-stock industry in this section of Nebraska. He gave special attention for many years to the raising of excellent types of live stock and made large shipments of the same annually, his finely improved homestead farm having been situated in Section 35, Logan township, and comprising three hundred and twenty acres, besides which he was the owner of fully five hundred acres in Sherman township. A man of sterling character and marked energy, he did well his part in furthering the advancement of farm enterprise in the county, the while he stood exponent of loyal and progressive citizenship.

The father of Mr. Ruyle was born at Knoxville, Tennessee, in the year 1824, and was about eight years old when his parents removed to Illinois, in 1832, and numbered themselves among the pioneers of Scott county. The father of the subject of this memoir was reared and educated in Illinois, was one of the historic California argonauts of 1849, and after his return to Illinois he became the owner of a very large and valuable landed estate, in Jersey county, where he raised fine horses and cattle on an extensive scale and where he was influential in community affairs. He served as county commissioner and was a Democrat in politics. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary J. Elliott, was born in 1836, on Chamteau island, in the Mississippi river, above St. Louis, and both continued their residence in Illinois until their death. They became the parents of eight children — William H., Elizabeth, Annie, Laura, Louis, Edward, and Oliver.

William H. Ruyle was born in Jersey county, Illinois, on the 14th of April, 1856, and was there reared and educated. He remained on his father's farm until he had attained to his legal majority, and in 1877 he visited Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. In New Mexico he became the owner of a pioneer ranch, but he soon returned to Illinois, where he continued his association with farm industry until 1880, when he came to Gage county and settled in Logan township, where he developed one of the fine farm estates of the county, besides becoming specially successful as a buyer and shipper of live stock. In politics he held to the faith of the Democratic party and he consented to serve in minor offices in his township, including those of tax collector and school director.

On the 10th of October, 1878, Mr. Ruyle wedded Miss Nettie Bateman, who was born in Jersey county, Illinois, on the 26th of October, 1858, a daughter of William and Julia (Cowan) Bateman, who came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1880 and settled in Logan township, where they passed the remainder of their lives, their children having been nine in number. Mr. and Mrs. Ruyle became the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: Eva J., Clarence L., William L., Herbert R., George W., Lloyd O., and Arthur. Of Herbert R. individual mention is made on other pages of this volume. Mrs. Ruyle passed to the life eternal on the 10th of June, 1896, and eventually Mr. Ruyle contracted a

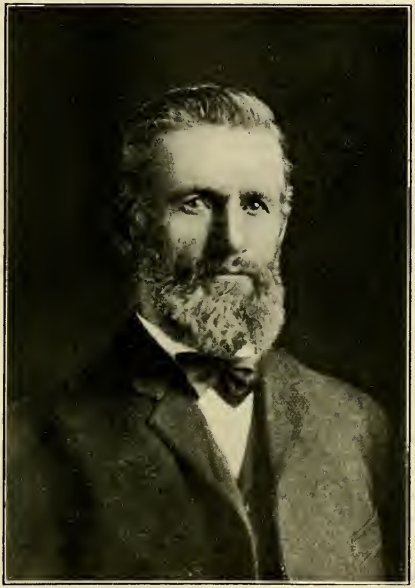
second marriage, when Miss Minnie Girl became his wife, she still remaining on the old homestead farm in Logan township. Of this union were born seven children, all of whom are living except one — Carl, Lulu, Minnie, Julia, Thomas (deceased), Etta, and Helen.

ROBERT G. GILMORE, who is now living in well earned retirement and generous prosperity in the city of Beatrice, is one of the most venerable and honored of the early pioneer settlers of Gage county and is entitled to special recognition in this history, for he has done well his part in the development of the resources of the county and in aiding in civic and industrial progress.

Mr. Gilmore was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1839, a son of William and Jane (Dickeye) Gilmore, both likewise natives of the old Keystone state, the former being of Irish ancestry and the latter of German lineage. William Gilmore, who was born in 1803, became a successful farmer in Venango county, and there his death occurred in 1861. His widow survived him by nearly forty years and continued her residence in Pennsylvania until her death, February 15, 1897, her birth having occurred in February, 1817. They became the parents of eight children: Adam C. was a resident of Kansas at the time of his death, in 1875; Robert G., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Ira B., who was born in 1841, resides in Chicora, Butler county, Pennsylvania; Quinton B., who was born in 1843, died in Pennsylvania, in 1911; Sarah Jane is the widow of J. R. Adams and resides at Utica, Pennsylvania; Agnes Imelda is the widow of S. P. McCracken and she likewise maintains her home at Utica; William Walker Gilmore is a carpenter by trade and is identified with the oil industry in Pennsylvania; Ann Eliza is the wife of William Whitman, of Plum, Venango county, Pennsylvania. The father was originally a Whig and later a Republican in politics, and he and his wife were earnest members of the Presbyterian church. He reclaimed a good farm in a heavily timbered section of Venango county and was in the prime of life at the time of his death. He is a son of Bruce Gilmore, and the ancestral line is traced back from Ireland to staunch Scotch origin.

Robert G. Gilmore early gained full fellowship with the arduous work of the pioneer farm in Pennsylvania and his youthful education was acquired principally in a primitive log school house. He continued his association with agricultural industry in his native county until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he subordinated all personal interests to tender his aid in defense of the Union. In August, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Eighty-third Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and with which he participated in many important battles, as well as minor engagements. He was with his regiment at the siege of Yorktown, the engagement at Hanover Court House, the seven days' fight before Richmond, the second battle of Bull Run, and the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania, in which last mentioned conflict he received two severe wounds. Here also he was captured by the enemy, and it was thereafter his portion to endure for three and one-half months the horrors and privations that have made the name of Libby Prison odious in he history of the war between the North and the South. His exchange was finally effected and his service as a gallant soldier of the Union covered a period of three years and one month, with honorable discharge granted to him September 20, 1864.

After the close of a military career that shall ever reflect honor on his name, Mr. Gilmore returned to his native county and resumed his active association with farm enterprise. In 1875 he came to Nebraska and in Highland township, Gage county, entered claim to a homestead of eighty acres, in Section 28. With characteristic energy and resourcefulness he applied himself to the developing and improving of his pioneer farm, and eventually he figured as the owner of a fine farm estate of one hundred and sixty



ROBERT G. GILMORE

MRS. ROBERT G. GILMORE

acres, the excellent buildings which he erected showing that cumulative prosperity had attended his earnest efforts. He remained on his old homestead until 1892, since which time he and his wife having maintained their residence in the attractive home which he provided in the city of Beatrice.

September 24, 1867, recorded the marriage of Mr. Gilmore to Miss Lucy M. Clough, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania and is a daughter of Horace P. and Ann (Brown) Clough, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania, in which latter state the father became a prosperous farmer. He finally removed with his family to Illinois, where his wife died, and in 1875 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased the pioneer farm on which he passed the remainder of his life. He was born in July, 1815, and died in August, 1891. His wife was born in June, 1813, and died in 1867, both having been members of the Free Will Baptist church: of their ten children only four are now living, their daughter Lucy M., wife of the subject of this review, having been born July 21, 1841, and she and her husband having celebrated on the 24th of September, 1917, their golden-wedding anniversary, which was made notable by their entertaining a company of about forty of their kinsfolk and other friends and marked a pleasing event in the social calendar of Gage county for that year. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore became the parents of five children: Marietta A., who was born November 4, 1868, died in May, 1873; William B., who was born June 4, 1870, is now successfully engaged in the live-stock business at Loveland, Colorado; Flora, who was born November 18, 1872, is the wife of O. L. Stewart, engaged in the mercantile business in Beatrice; Leonard B., who was born June 18, 1875, lives upon and has the active management of his father's old homestead farm; and Horace Clinton, born January 5, 1880, holds the position of foreman with the Independent Lumber Company at Montrose, Colorado.

Mr. Gilmore has continued his unfaltering allegiance to the Republican party from the time when he cast his first presidential vote, for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860. While on his farm he served in various township offices, as well as a member of the school board of his district, and in the spring of 1884 he was appointed postmaster at Barkey, a position of which he continued the incumbent eight years. He was formerly affiliated with the Grand Army Post at Cortland and passed the various official chairs in the same, as has he also in Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, with which he has been affiliated since removing to Beatrice and of which he is past commander. He attends and supports the First Baptist church, of which his wife is an active member, and both are honored and venerable pioneer citizens of the county that has represented their home for more than two score years.

JOHN CACEK. — A man who has made good use of his opportunities and by intelligently directed efforts has become one of the substantial men of his community is John Cacek, a farmer and stock-raiser, residing in Section 6, Paddock township. He was born in the province of Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, November 17, 1865. He was less than two years of age when the family immigrated to America and was a boy of nine when the home was established in Gage county, Nebraska. Reared on his father's farm, amid the pioneer conditions that existed in those times, he early learned the lessons of thrift and industry which have been so valuable to him in later life. At the age of twenty-five years he came into possession of one hundred and twenty acres of land, a part of his father's estate, and he is to-day the owner of five hundred and twenty acres in Gage county, and five hundred and sixty acres in Jefferson county, Nebraska. His home farm is in Section 6, Paddock township, and consists of one hundred and sixty acres of land, improved with a nice home for the family and with good barns and outbuildings for the shelter of his stock and machinery.

For a helpmeet Mr. Cacek chose Miss Mary Hebel. She was born in Saline county, Nebraska, November 14, 1872, a daughter of

Joseph and Mary (Mahajek) Hebel, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Cacek are the parents of eight children: John, Jr., married Mary Shalla and operates one of his father's farms, in Paddock township, and Charles, Emma, Albert, Joseph, Mary, Ralph, and Alvin are still under the parental roof. The family are communicants of the Catholic church and Mr. Cacek votes the Democratic ticket. He is serving his third year as a member of the school board of his district, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion.

Mr. Cacek and his family have worked hard and by carefully saving his earnings, and by judicious investments in farm lands, he is to-day one of the substantial men of Gage county.

HENRY DAMKROGER is one of the progressive and substantial farmers and stockmen of Holt township and is a popular and influential citizen who is well entitled to recognition in this history. In Gage county he is the owner of a valuable landed estate of eight hundred and forty acres, besides which he has one hundred acres in Jefferson county and a farm of two hundred acres in Saline county. He is one of Gage county's most extensive and successful stock-growers, and each successive year he feeds on his farm estate an average of about thirty-five head of cattle and three hundred head of swine. His homestead place is attractively situated in Section 7, Holt township, about seven and one-half miles distant from the village of Dewitt, which is his post-office address. In 1908 Mr. Damkroger erected on this model homestead a modern house of fourteen rooms, and the same is one of the most attractive rural homes of the county, the house being equipped with its own electric-lighting system — that known as the Delco — and other facilities and appointments being likewise of the most approved and modern type. Mr. Damkroger has served as township treasurer, township assessor, and as a member of the school board of his district. He is a stalwart Republican in politics and he and his wife are zealous communicants of the Lutheran church. He was one of the organizers of the church of this denomination in Grant township, having been one of its eight charter members and having served many terms as a member of its board of trustees. He is president of the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank at Dewitt, Saline county, a position which he has held for several years, besides which he is a stockholder in the farmers' elevator companies at Dewitt and Pickrell, and secretary of the German Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Clatonia.

Mr. Damkroger was born in the province of Westphalia, Germany, April 30, 1858, and is a son of William and Louisa (Schlake) Damkroger, of whose nine children he was the sixth in order of birth; Mrs. Mary Dorfler resides at Beatrice, this county, being the wife of John Dorfler; Louisa is the wife of Carl Weber, of Holt township; Charlotte is the wife of John Schuermann, a farmer near Dewitt, Saline county; Anna is the wife of William Schuermann, of the same county; Frederick is a retired farmer residing at Clatonia, Gage county; John F. is a representative farmer of Grant township; Frank resides at Wakefield, Kansas; and William was killed by accident when on a hunting expedition. The father was born in the year 1833 and continued his residence in Germany until 1879, when he came with his family to America and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. In Grant township he purchased railroad land, at eight dollars an acre, and he reclaimed and improved one of the excellent farms of that township, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in 1907, his wife having survived him by about two years and having been summoned to eternal rest August 2, 1909, at the age of seventy-three years, both having been devout communicants of the Lutheran church, and their names meriting enduring place on the roll of honored pioneers of Gage county.

Henry Damkroger was reared and educated in his native land and was a youth of seventeen years when he came to the United States, in 1874, his brother Frederick having come in the preceding year. Landing in the port of

New York city, he forthwith set forth for Nebraska. When he arrived in the city of Lincoln he found his financial resources entirely exhausted, and from a cousin residing in that city he borrowed the sum of five dollars, which enabled him to continue his journey to Dewitt, Saline county. After coming to Nebraska Mr. Damkroger worked one year as a farm hand, and thereafter he was employed three years as clerk in a general store at Dewitt. Between the years 1874 and 1878 he saved from his earnings the sum of six hundred dollars, and of this he expended two hundred dollars in making the trip to Germany and inducing his parents to join him. With the remaining four hundred dollars he purchased cattle, and he grazed his herd over the prairies in Gage and Saline counties, besides taking additional cattle to feed and herd on contract. The late William Steinmeyer lent him money to purchase his first team of horses, and he then engaged independently in general farming and stock-growing in Gage county. It was a modest beginning, but energy, ambition, and good management brought returns, the while in his career success has been synonymous with honor. To the earnest co-operation and wise counsel of his devoted wife he attributes in large measure the success that has attended his productive activities as a member of the world's great army of workers. His paternal devotion has been shown in his having aided all of his children to get a start in life, besides having given them excellent educational advantages. Of his financial status an idea is conveyed in the statement that for the year 1916 he paid an income taxe of one hundred and two dollars.

In September, 1882, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Damkroger to Miss Louisa Spilker, who was born April 5, 1854, and who is a daughter of Henry Spilker, detailed mention of the family appearing on other pages, in the sketch of the career of her brother, Ernest H. Spilker. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Damkroger two died in infancy; Sophia is the wife of Herman F. Siems, of Grant township; Louisa is the wife of H. O. Waldo, of Dewitt, Saline county; Lena is the wife of J. J. Kruescher, a merchant at Dewitt; Charlotte is the wife of George Pohlman, of Grant township; Catherine remains at the parental home; Henry W. has entered the national army in preparation for service in the great European war and at the time of this writing, in the winter of 1917-1918, is stationed at the army cantonment of Camp Funston, Kansas; and Herman, Frederick, and Lavina are the younger members of the gracious home circle.

CHARLES ARMSTRONG was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, October 20, 1858, a son of Andrew and Elizabeth Armstrong, who passed their entire lives in Ireland. Four children of this family came to America, their first home being in Linn county, Iowa, and later they all became residents of Gage county, Nebraska. Kate became the wife of William Hommersham and they lived in Gage county for several years. They now are residents of Missouri.

The subject of this record was eighteen years of age when he came to the United States and joined his brothers, who were living in Linn county, Iowa. In 1880, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and located on eighty acres of land which he purchased and upon which his home has been maintained ever since that time; but little improvement had been made on the place and Mr. Armstrong has provided a comfortable home for his family besides which he has recently erected a new barn and provided other good buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He is progressive and up-to-date in his methods and has added to his original purchase until to-day he is the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land.

At Vinton, Iowa, was solemnized the marriage of Charles Armstrong and Miss Agnes Whelan, who is, like her husband, a native of the Emerald Isle and who came to the United States when a young lady of eighteen years. She supplemented the education she received in her native land by attendance at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and thereafter she

was engaged in teaching, being thus employed at the time of her marriage.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong has been blessed with eight children: Kate is still under the parental roof; Minnie died in infancy; Andrew, married Flo Wilson and is engaged in farming in Gage county; Bessie Viola, Alex George, Joseph, William F., and Charles Edward all remain at the parental home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Epicopal church, and Mr. Armstrong exercises his right of franchise in support of men and measures advanced by the Democratic party. While not an aspirant for public office, he has rendered efficient service as a member of the school board of his district.

RALPH A. DUIS. — Germany has furnished some most valuable citizens to Nebraska and one of the number is Ralph A. Duis, who is one of the substantial farmers of Glenwood township.

Mr. Duis was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, April 24, 1867. His parents, Pabe and Engel Duis, spent their entire lives in their native land, the father passing away at the age of eighty-five years and the mother being seventy-five years of age when she was called to the home beyond.

Reared and educated in his native land, Mr. Duis was twenty-two years old when he sought a home in America. The first year he worked as a hired man on a farm in Atchison county, Missouri, after which he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where for five years he operated a rented farm near Wymore. He carefully saved his earnings until he was able to purchase a farm of eighty acres near Wymore. Five years were spent in developing this place, which he then sold. He thereupon purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Glenwood township, where he has resided and successfully carried on agricultural pursuits for the past seventeen years.

In Atchison county, Missouri, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Duis to Miss Johanna Luben, who is also a native of Germany, and who came to America the same year as did her husband. They have become the parents of fourteen children, and the family circle has been untouched by the hand of death. Pabe is married and is farming in Washington county, Kansas; Minnie is the wife of August Adam, of Glenwood township; Tina is now Mrs. Nienober, of Washington county, Kansas; John is at home; Hannah is now Mrs. Wieters, of Glenwood township; and Tillie, Anna, Dora, Rosa, Rudolph, Alfred, William, Harold and Elmer are still under the parental roof.

The family are members of the Lutheran church and the father votes the Democratic ticket. Aside from two thousand dollars which Mr. Duis inherited from his parents, his success is the result of his own efforts. His prosperity is attested by the fact that he has two hundred acres of valuable land, equipped with a good house and other requisite farm buildings. Mr. Duis and his family are among the highly respected residents of Gage county.

WILLIAM H. JEWELL. — In Section 20 of Grant township, Gage county, is the home of William H. Jewell, who is one of Gage county's many prosperous farmers and stockgrowers, and a native son of the county. Mr. Jewell was born on the old homestead of his father in Clatonia township, January 25, 1872, and is the eldest of the three surviving children of George W. and Martha (Carpenter) Jewell; Bertha, the only daughter, is the wife of W. E. McJunken, of Dewitt, Saline county; and Earl C. is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume.

George W. Jewell was born in Ohio, on the 25th of April, 1845, and thence removed with his parents to Illinois when a youth. The Jewell family is of Scotch-Irish origin, having been founded in America in colonial days. George W. Jewell, as a valiant soldier, served in the Second Illinois Cavalry in the Civil war, and thereafter he continued his residence in Illinois until 1870, when he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He reclaimed a home-

stead in Clatonia township, and later bought the southeast quarter of Section 20, on which the subject of this review now resides. Here he made his home until his death, which occurred November 21, 1910, his wife having passed away in 1902. Mr. Jewell was a citizen who did his part well in the furtherance of civic and industrial progress, and was one of the honored pioneers of the county at the time of his death. He was a Republican in politics and was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic.

William H. Jewell recalls among the varied experiences of his boyhood and youth the herding of cattle on the open prairies of this part of the state, and he has more than once expressed in later years a wish that he might once more look upon the untrammeled plains and the native prairie grass. As a boy he remembers that the Indians were still much in evidence in this part of Nebraska, and that three Indian trails traversed the old home farm. Mr. Jewell acquired his early education in the pioneer schools, which were well conducted, and upon attaining his legal majority he rented from his father the old home place, which was sold in 1875. It was at this time that his father bought the farm on which Mr. Jewell now lives, and which he has greatly improved. Here he continues to conduct his energetic and successful activities as a farmer and a breeder and raiser of pure-blood Duroc-Jersey swine.

March 16, 1898, recorded the marriage of Mr. Jewell to Miss Mildred L. Brown, who was born in Essex county, New York, and who came with her parents to Nebraska in 1887, the family home having been established in Saline county, where her father died in 1902, at the age of sixty-five years. Mrs. Jewell is a daughter of Ezra and Mary (Thompson) Brown, who were born and reared in the old Empire state, and since the death of the honored father the now venerable mother has lived in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jewell, who accord her filial solicitude. Concerning the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jewell the following data are available: George E. was born October 28, 1902; Lucille was born October 15, 1904, and died on the 23d of the following January; and Kenneth William was born July 25, 1910.

In politics Mr. Jewell is unfaltering in his allegience to the Republican party, and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Highlanders, and the Royal Neighbors, his wife likewise being identified with the two last mentioned organizations, and they are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

IRA BOYD. — The cost of production of those commodities raised on a farm, due to the price of land, cost of labor and machinery, etc., requires that the successful farmer of today must possess business ability as definitely as must the merchant or banker. The farmer who makes use of the best methods of tilling the soil or who seeks to improve the grade of live stock raised on his farm, not only assures himself better returns for his own time and investment but becomes a public benefactor in his community.

One of the younger farmers and stockmen of Gage county who is demonstrating his ability as a business man is Ira Boyd, owning and operating a tract of one hundred acres in section 21, Sherman township.

He is a native of Iowa, born in Linn county, October 19, 1880, a son of Otho Boyd, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Remaining on the home farm, he assisted in its operation, and was assisted by his father in purchasing the one hundred and twenty acres which he has operated for several years. He has erected a splendid set of buildings on the place, making it one of the best in the township. Aside from the cultivation of those crops best adapted to the soil and climate he makes a specialty of raising pure-blooded Red Polled cattle, Percheron horses and Duroc-Jersey hogs, from the sale of which he adds materially to his income. He is deserving of much credit for the effort displayed to raise the standard of live stock in his county.

Mr. Boyd completed arrangements for a home of his own by his marriage, in 1910, to Miss Bertha Horst, of Kansas. They are

the parents of five children: Ruth, Delmar, Walter, Elva and Allen. The family are members of the Dunkard church and in politics Mr. Boyd is a Republican.

JOHN E. REMMERS. — There have been many who have achieved substantial success in connection with farm industry in Gage county, but few have won more noteworthy success through this basic medium than has John E. Remmers, who is still the owner of nine hundred acres of well improved and valuable land in the county, though he is now living practically retired and in the enjoyment of the gracious rewards that have attended his earnest and well directed endeavors in the past. Since the spring of 1918 he has maintained his residence in Lincoln, the beautiful capital city of Nebraska, where his home is at No. 2054 South Seventeenth street.

Mr. Remmers was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 6th of November, 1850, and is a son of John and Katherine Remmers, of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work, in the sketch dedicated to Thomas Remmers, of Beatrice. John E. Remmers acquired his early education in his native land and was about seventeen years of age when, in 1868, he accompanied his parents on their immigration to America. After remaining a few months in Illinois the family came to Nebraska, before the close of the year 1868, and in the new state John Remmers established himself as a pioneer of Gage county. He became one of the representative farmers of Hanover township, and on the old home farm John E. Remmers gave vigorous aid in the work of reclamation and development, besides which he attended for a time a pioneer school conducted in a rude dug-out structure in Logan township. He remained at the parental home until the autumn of 1871, when he filed claim to a homestead of eighty acres in Nemaha township. On this property he made the best of improvements and after developing the place into a productive farm he finally exchanged the property for a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 12 of the same township.

In 1890 he removed to section 11 of that township, where he erected a commodious and modern house, a good barn and other farm buildings. Here he continued to give his personal attention to his extensive farm enterprise until 1911, when he laid aside to a large degree the labors that has long been his portion, and shifted the responsibilities upon younger shoulders. He was distinctly successful in his activities as a vital exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry and, as previously noted, he is to-day the owner of a valuable landed estate of nine hundred acres in the county which claims him as one of its sterling pioneers. He was loyal and progressive as a citizen during the entire period of his residence in Gage county, served three years as assessor of Nemaha township, and was always ready to give his support to measures and enterprises tending to advance the communal welfare. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his family are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

September 18, 1878, recorded the marriage of Mr. Remmers to Miss Rena Steinmann, who was born in the state of Illinois, on the 10th of February, 1859. Her parents, Henry and Rachel (Yelken) Steinmann, were natives of Germany but their marriage was solemnized in the state of Illinois. Henry Steinmann immigrated to America about the year 1845 and established his residence in Illinois. There he remained until 1864, when he came with his family to Nebraska Territory and became one of the early settlers of Nemaha county. He was a man of superior education and marked progressiveness, so that he became influential in civic affairs in the pioneer period of Nebraska history. He assisted in the organization and initial development of the city of Lincoln, and there aided in selecting the site of the state's capitol building. He and his wife became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living, and by a previous marriage Mrs. Steinmann was the mother of three children. Mr. Steinmann died in the year 1890, at the age of seventy-two years, and his venerable widow, who

celebrated in 1917 the eighty-fifth anniversary of her birth, now resides in the home of her daughter Rena, wife of the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Remmers are the parents of three children: Catherine remains at the parental home; Henry is a prosperous farmer in Section 12, Nemaha township, Gage county; and Mary L. is the wife of Frank F. Pape, a farmer in Section 7, Nemaha township, this county.

GEORGE T. MITCHELL. — A resident of Gage county for thirty-nine years, George T. Mitchell now lives retired in a comfortable home in Wymore. He was born at Leslie, Michigan, June 30, 1855. His parents, Elisha and Elizabeth (Roberts) Mitchell, were natives of New York and England respectively. They were married in Michigan, where the father had gone when a young man, and to that state the mother was brought by her parents when she was a little girl. In the Wolverine state they made their home until 1876, when they became residents of Adair county, Iowa, and there they both passed away, he having reached the age of eighty-two years and his wife having been ninety-five years of age when she was called to her final rest.

In the common schools of Michigan and Iowa George T. Mitchell received his youthful education and he was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm. When he reached manhood he became a farmer on his own account, in Adams county, Iowa. In 1881 he came, in a "prairie schooner," to Nebraska, with Gage county as his destination. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Section 33, Barneston township, this tract being in the Otoe Indian reservation, which had been opened up for settlement only a few years before. His first home was a sod house, in which he lived for two years, and during the first year he kept "bachelor's hall." He later added forty acres to his holdings, and for fourteen years he was successfully engaged in developing and cultivating this farm. He then sold the property and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Section 1 of the same township. Here for twenty years he devoted his time and energies to general farming and stock-raising. For the past nine years he has lived retired, although he states that he would like to be back on the farm and be "one of the boys."

In Gage county was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mitchell and Miss Martha With, a native of Maryland and a daughter of John and Sarah (Clark) With. The parents of Mrs. Mitchell were natives of Maryland and became early settlers of Bureau county, Illinois. In the fall of 1880 they came to Gage county, Nebraska, and settled in Paddock township, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell became the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Bert, who married Mabel Conover, is a farmer in Barneston township; George, who married Maggie Noe, likewise is a farmer in Barneston township; Ora, who married Ida Yaney, is farming in the state of Kansas; Lizzie is the wife of Elza Hollingsworth, of Wymore, Nebraska; Walter, who married Zula Yaney, is a farmer in Kansas; Maude, is the wife of Will Jones, a merchant of Wymore; and Miss Myrtle is still at the parental home.

Mr. Mitchell exercises his right of franchise in support of men and measures of the Republican party. While on the farm he rendered efficient service as a member of the school board and also as treasurer of his township. Fraternally he is affiliated with Barneston Lodge No. 165, A. F. & A. M. As an early settler and one who has contributed his full share to the development and progress of Gage county, Mr. Mitchell is entitled to much credit, the while he deserves the success that has come to him.

DANIEL GOODMAN. — On the rolls of noble citizens of Gage county, Nebraska, and honored veterans of the Civil war, mention must be made of Daniel Goodman.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Goodman was born in Northumberland county, on the 1st of April, 1847. His parents, Daniel and Catherine (Wagner) Goodman, likewise were natives of Pennsylvania, and they spent their

DANIEL GOODMAN AND FAMILY

entire lives in the old Keystone state. They reared a family of fourteen children — ten sons and four daughters. Daniel Goodman spent his boyhood days on a farm in his native county, and though he was only a boy when the storm of civil war burst upon the nation, his patriotism was aroused and he displayed his loyalty by enlisting, in February, 1863, in Company I, Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. His regiment participated in the battles of Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania Court House, Winchester, and other engagements, the last days of his service being around Petersburg. When success crowned the Union arms he was one of those who marched in the Grand Review at Washington, the greatest military pageant ever witnessed on the western hemisphere. When his nation no longer needed his services, Mr. Goodman went to Stephenson county, Illinois, and turned his energies to the more peaceful occupation of farming. Seeking better opportunities, he came to Nebraska in 1874, and settled in Otoe county. Here the grasshoppers took his crop, and he returned to Illinois, where he lived for several years. In 1891, Mr. Goodman again came to Nebraska, and at this time he settled in Adams township, Gage county. Five years later he moved to another farm, in Section 3, that township, and here he successfully carried on farm enterprise until his death, which occurred February 22, 1911.

On February 1, 1881, at Freeport, Illinois, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Goodman to Miss Emma Reed, who was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Henry) Reed, likewise natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Goodman's parents spent their last days in Otoe county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Goodman became the parents of one daughter, Essie, wife of O. W. Vanderpool, who resides on the Goodman farm. They are the parents of four children: Emma Goldie, Maude Annette, Nada Irene, and Russell Oyd.

Mr. Goodman was always a staunch Republican, and he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, belonging to Sergeant Cox Post, No. 100, at Adams, this county. He was a good citizen, a loving husband and father, and was always as faithful in the days of peace as when he loyally served his country on the battlefields of the South.

RAYMOND WEINER. — Among the many Bohemian farmers who have settled in Gage county and have become successful farmers, Raymond Weiner must be mentioned. Bohemia, the land of his birth, is one of the prominent Slavonic countries of Europe, and had a university, at Prague, as early as 1348. While its civilization is old and mature, its internal and external strife for liberty has kept the common people from enjoying the advantages which are given to the people of the United States. It is, perhaps, because of these reasons that so many of Bohemia's sons have immigrated to this country. Raymond Weiner was born in 1857, a son of William and Frances (Bartershesky) Weiner, who were well-to-do farmers of their native Bohemia. Their three sturdy sons were born in Bohemia and received their education there. William Weiner immigrated with his family to this country in 1875, and they settled at Wilber, Saline county, Nebraska. Two years later they came to Sicily township, Gage county, and their earnings which they brought with them they invested in four hundred and eighty acres of land. After the death of William Weiner, in 1907, this land was divided between his three sons, — William, Jr., who died in December, 1917, was at the time a retired farmer; Raymond is the subject of this sketch; and Edward died in 1915.

Raymond Weiner, with his original one hundred and sixty acres of land as a nucleus around which to acquire more land, has added to his holdings until he now owns six hundred and forty acres of land. His three oldest sons each has one hundred and twenty acres and is farming the same.

In 1885 Raymond Weiner and Anna Cack were joined in holy wedlock. Mrs. Weiner was born in Michigan, and is a daughter of Bohemian parents, Joseph and Anna (Jepla) Cack. Joseph Cack was a native of Bohemia and was farming in Michigan before his ar-

rival in Gage county, in 1873. In his early manhood he served in the Bohemian navy and in after years, when prosperity had smiled upon him, the longing to visit to his old home was so insistent that he returned to Bohemia. There he was called to his last home, never returning to the land of his adoption. He was ninety-one years of age.

Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Weiner: Raymond, Jr., Joe and John are each farming one hundred and twenty acres of land in Sicily township, these farms having been received from their father; and Frank, Willie, Mary, Anna, Bessie and Francis are still under the parental roof and enjoying educational privileges that shall fit them for their future work.

For forty years Mr. Weiner has dealt extensively in cattle, feeding and raising them in great lots, and he has been very successful in his farm enterprise. His home and the buildings that adorn his land, radiate the prosperity and taste of their owner, not alone in an ornamental but also in a useful way. All this shows the long years of hard labor expended in accumulating this property, which is a monument to Mr. Weiner's thorough devotion to his work.

FRANCIS M. CHAMP.—The late Francis Marion Champ, who became one of the substantial framers and highly esteemed citizens of Gage county, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, on the 26th of August, 1849, and was one of the seven children of John and Sarah Ann (Hobbs) Champ. He was seven years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Champaign county, Illinois, where his father engaged in farm enterprise. In that county Francis M. Champ was reared and educated and there he continued to be associated in the work of the home farm until the time of his marriage, in 1873. It was during the '80s that Nebraska lands were fast being settled by men coming from Illinois and other states, and a most valuable contribution to the settlement of the state in that period was that given by Illinois. In 1885 Mr. Champ came with his family to Gage county and rented land in Paddock township, where the passing years brought prosperity to him in connection with his well ordered farm enterprise. In 1901 he purchased eighty-three acres of land in that township, and here he continued to reside until his death, which occurred March 27, 1917. At the time when Mr. Champ purchased this farm only a portion of the same was available for cultivation and no definite improvements had been made in the matter of buildings. With characteristic energy and good judgment he brought every acre under effective cultivation and productiveness, besides which he made all requisite improvements on the place, the same continuing as the residence of his widow.

In politics Mr. Champ customarily supported the candidates of the Republican party, and for some time he served as assessor of his township. He was a man of sterling character and commanded the unqualified esteem of all who knew him. Mr. Champ maintained active affiliation with the Knights & Ladies of Security, and of this organization his widow also is a member.

In the year 1873 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Champ to Miss Ruth Ann Duvall, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, on the 2d of March, 1852, and who was the third in order of birth of the eight children of Isaac and Sarah Ann (Long) Duvall. In 1858, when Mrs. Champ was six years of age, her parents removed to Illinois, where the father became a prosperous farmer. In the concluding paragraph of this memoir is entered brief record concerning the children ot Mr. and Mrs. Champ.

Cora B., who became the wife of George F. Wierman, is deceased and her daughter Eva now resides in the home of her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Champ; Annaretta became the wife of Charles Bell and she likewise has passed to the life eternal; William N. remains with his widowed mother and has active management of the farm; George resides near Diller, this state; Lewis is a farmer in Paddock township; Grace is the wife of Burrell M. Ellis, of Paddock township; Logan is a resident of the state of Wyoming; and

Hattie is the wife of Wilbur Burkett, their home being in South Dakota.

JOHN D. SCHOCK. — One of the finest homes in Blue Springs is that of John D. Schock, who is now living in honorable retirement. Mr. Schock was born in Seneca county, Ohio, September 25, 1849. His father, George Schock, was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, and when a young man he learned the carpenter's trade. He became an early settler of Seneca county, Ohio, near the town of Bellevue. There he bought land and became a successful farmer. He continued his residence in Seneca county until 1872, when he sold his property there and bought a farm in St. Joseph county, Michigan, near Three Rivers. This latter farm was the stage of his endeavors until he retired from active life. In 1900 he became a resident of Blue Springs, Nebraska, where his last days were spent and where he had often visited his sons, the latter having lived in Gage county for a number of years. The grandfather of our subject was John Schock, a native of Union county, Pennsylvania, born about 1778. In 1815 John Schock became one of the pioneer settlers of Seneca county, Ohio. The maiden name of the mother of the subject of this review was Lucy A. Ware. She was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, and in 1814, when ten years of age, accompanied her parents to Seneca county, Ohio. There she was reared to adult age and there she met and married George Schock. She accompanied her husband on the removal to Michigan and later to Gage county, her death occurring at Blue Springs.

John D. Schock was reared on a farm in Seneca county, Ohio, and when a boy of nineteen he came to Nebraska for the benefit of his health. He here employed himself at anything he could find to do, and one of the first jobs he found was helping to dig the mill race for the first dam built on the Blue river at Blue Springs. He thereafter secured three yokes of open and engaged in breaking prairie. Though only a poor boy, working by day and month, he donated twenty-five dollars toward building the first Methodist church at Beatrice, besides which he secured the contract for hauling material used in the erecting of that church. He was not old enough to take a homestead but he purchased a land warrant held by a soldier of the war of 1812. On this land he erected a one-story frame house fourteen by twenty-two feet in dimensions, and there he engaged in farming. When the town of Wymore was founded he gave the undivided one-half of forty acres to start the town, and some of the finest residences as well as some of the business blocks of Wymore are on the land where he once carried on farming pursuits. In 1881 he sold the remainder of his one hundred and sirty acres to the Lincoln Land Company. In the same year he purchased a farm in Blue Springs township, and here he continued to be successfully engaged in farming until 1901, when he sold the property. After a year spent in traveling he erected his present residence in Blue Springs, where he now lives in the enjoyment of well earned rest and comfort.

In 1873 Mr. Schock returned to Ohio and was united in marriage to Miss Susan B. Snavely, a native of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania. They have become the parents of six children, two of whom are living: Charles W., who as a young man manifested unusual mechanical talent and who is now engaged in the manufacture of special machinery, electrical instruments, etc., is married and resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Hettie Maude is the widow of Frank Rieff, residing in Beatrice.

In point of continuous residence few men in the south-central part of the county have been here longer than Mr. Schock. Blue Springs contained three log cabins when he arrived. His first home in the county is still doing service as a residence and the cellar he bricked up more than forty-five years ago is still in service.

Mr. Schock was a Republican for many years, but he voted for Woodrow Wilson twice and hopes to do so again. He has never aspired to nor held public office. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Blue Springs, served as its treas-

urer ten years, and was the main factor in organizing the Gage County Insurance Company, several years ago. Coming to Gage county when pioneer conditions were to be seen on every hand, he has contributed his full share toward bringing about present-day conditions, and in his ventures he has been successful, justly deserving to spend his declining years in the enjoyment of a well earned rest.

CHRISTIANAS L. HUTCHINSON. — Industry and intelligently directed effort in past years make it possible for the subject of this record to live retired, surrounded by all the necessities and many of the comforts and luxuries of life. A native of Pennsylvania, Christianas Lupardus Hutchinson was born in Berks county, June 5, 1854, a son of John S. and Sarah (Van Hart) Hutchinson. John S. Hutchinson, who was a native of New York state and of English parentage, was left an orphan when a child. He grew to manhood in his native state and as a young man he married Miss Sarah Van Hart, who was born in New Jersey of Holland Dutch descent. In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson immigrated to Illinois and settled in Champaign county, where he became a successful farmer and where both he and his wife both passed the remainder of their lives.

Christianas L. Hutchinson grew to manhood in Illinois, attended district school and under the instructions of his father learned the best methods of agriculture. In his native county Mr. Hutchinson married Miss Anna Johnston, who was born in Illinois and who is a daughter of Hale and Lucy Johnston, the former born in New Hampshire and the latter a native of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston were early settlers in Champaign county, Illinois, and both have passed to the life eternal. Mr. Hutchinson was engaged in farming in Illinois until 1888, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska. Here, in 1885, he had purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, in Paddock township. This land was partially improved and he went to building, plowing and planting, — a sturdy exponent of civic and industrial progress. He devoted his time and energy to making his one of the finely improved farms of the township, and there remained until his removal to the village of Odell. For the past twelve years Mr. Hutchinson has lived a retired life, but had his "girls been boys" he would probably still be on the farm. The family occupy a comfortable home in Odell. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson have two daughters — Ella May, at home, and Anna Belle, wife of Howard Drake, a farmer in Paddock township.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson attend the Methodist church, though their religious beliefs coincide with the teachings of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Hutchinson is a Republican and he has served efficiently as a member of the town council and the school board.

With no special advantages except ambition and a desire to succeed, and coming to this county when his possessions consisted of a team of horses and four hundred dollars in money, the passing years have brought success to Mr. Hutchinson and for thirty years he has been a valuable and valued member of his community.

LON W. EPARD has been a resident of Gage county since he was a youth of twenty years and for the past twenty-two years he has resided on his present fine homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 9, Logan township. He was born in Clark county, Ohio, December 9, 1861, and is a son of Simon and Thurzy Jane (Anderson) Epard, both of whom were born and reared in the old Buckeye state, whence they came to Gage county in 1880, the father having for years thereafter been engaged in farming in Logan township, and having finally removed to the state of Kansas, both he and his wife being now venerable residents of Colby, that state, — the former having attained to the age of eighty-five years (1918) and his wife being about one year his junior.

Lon W. Epard was reared on the old home farm in Ohio, where he acquired his early education in the public schools, and after coming with his parents to Gage county he assisted

his father in the work and management of the latter's farm until he initiated his independent career as a farmer. He follows the even tenor of his way as a substantial farmer in Logan township and he and his wife are held in high esteem in the community. In addition to his home farm he is the owner of a recently acquired farm of one hundred and twenty acres, Logan township. Mr. Epard is aligned with the Democratic party and he served ten years as a member of the school board of his district.

In 1888 Mr. Epard married Miss Ida N. Mumford, who was born and reared in Logan township and who is a daughter of John B. Mumford, of whom personal mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Epard have one son, J. B., who was named in honor of his maternal grandfather and who lacked but four days of being eligible for the second draft made in the recruiting of American soldiers for the great European war in which the nation has become involved.

IRA N. PICKETT, M. D., is a pioneer physician of Gage county, and one who is possessed of those reliable qualities and faithful devotion to duty that make for benignant service to humanity. He has endeared himself to the people of his community and he has also established an enviable reputation among his professional confreres in the state.

Dr. Pickett's ancestors were natives of France and the name was originally spelled Piquette. Because of religious persecutions, the family immigrated to England and in the early part of the seventeenth century representatives of the name came to America and settled in North Carolina. William Pickett, father of Dr. Ira N. Pickett, was born in North Carolina and there married Miss Cyrene Cook, also a native of that state. They later became residents of Hamilton county, Indiana, where Mr. Pickett engaged in farming.

Dr. Ira N. Pickett was born in Indiana, June 20, 1852, and when he was but three years of age his father and mother both passed away, their deaths occurring only three months apart. One of the Doctor's earliest recollections was that of his father holding him to the window to show him something in an apple tree. The dogs had treed a coon and his father was calling his attention to it. On a recent visit to the old home place the Doctor ate apples from this same tree, which had been bearing for more than sixty years.

Dr. Pickett received a common-school education in Indiana and attended Whittier Academy, at Salem, Henry county, Iowa. He began the study of medicine at Red Oak, Iowa, and later returned to Indiana and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Thorntown, that state, from which institution he was graduated. Dr. Pickett went with the early immigration into Stafford county, Kansas, and established himself for the practice of medicine on that western frontier, in what was afterward called Stafford county, his advent there being before county organization was effected. In the fall of 1880 Dr. Pickett returned to Red Oak, Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1883, when he sought a location in Nebraska. He went as far as Grand Island on the Union Pacific Railroad, but finding no suitable location he turned his course toward southeastern Nebraska. At Lincoln, while waiting for a train, the Doctor was accosted by a man who inquired his business, and upon being told he was a physician looking for a location, he was advised by the gentleman to come to Gage county and open an office in the new town of Filley. This gentleman was Elijah Filley, who had that day made the trip to Lincoln for the purpose of filing papers for the establishment of the town which bears his name. The young physician accompanied his newly found friend home and for three years practiced medicine at Filley, the while he boarded at the home of the founder of the town. In the spring of 1886 Dr. Pickett established himself at Odell, Nebraska, where he has devoted himself to the practice of his profession, through the medium of which he has endeared himself to the people of the community. Here the Doctor has for the past thirty years served his people with ability, loyalty and untiring devotion to duty.

Dr. Pickett was united in marriage to Mrs. Minnie Colby, of Ridout, Illinois.

Dr. Pickett was reared in the faith of the Society of Friends, and while no organization of that faith exists at Odell, he has never seen fit to change his affiliations. In politics the principles of the "Bull Moose" wing of the Republican party have his endorsement. Since its organization, ten years ago, Dr. Pickett has been a member of the Gage County Board of Health. Various business enterprises have profited by Dr. Pickett's co-operation and support, and they have had to do with the upbuilding of the town. Among these are the Odell Vinegar Company, of which he was president for several years. He was one of the promoters and has been a director in the Odell Lumber Company. In strictly professional lines the Doctor is affiliated with the American Medical Association, the Missouri Valley Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society, of which he was president in 1913, and at the present time (1918) he is serving as president of the Gage County Medical Society. Fraternally Dr. Pickett is a Mason and at one time he was worshipful master of the Odell Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

In all things that have had to do with the moral, educational and material uplift and advancement of Gage county, Dr. Pickett has given hearty support. Only three men are now in business in the town of Odell who were here at the time Dr. Pickett arrived, more than thirty-two years ago. All these years he has been popular with his townsmen, both as a physician and as a citizen.

PAUL F. MOSELEY is one who can claim Gage county as the place of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Paddock township, March 15, 1888. He is a son of Frank Moseley, of whom a memoir appears elsewhere in this volume. Reared on his father's farm, Paul F. Moseley spent his boyhood days between his studies in the district school and his father's home, where as a boy he assisted in the lighter duties connected with the operation of a large farm. As his strength increased he assumed more largely the heavier duties, and thus when he reached young manhood he was so well versed in the best methods of tilling the soil and planting and harvesting crops that he was admirably fortified when he became a farmer on his own account. He is to-day operating a farm of four hundred acres belonging to his father-in-law, and is the owner of eighty acres adjoining this tract. Aside from planting those cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he also raises stock of all kinds, making a specialty of breeding and raising pure-bred Short-horn cattle, and having at the time of this writing thirty head of registered animals on the place. Both branches of his business are bringing him good returns.

Mr. Mosely married Miss Martha Taylor, who was born in Gage county, and who is a daughter of Sherman Taylor, her father being individually represented on other pages of this history. Mr. and Mrs. Moseley belong to the younger generation of Gage county's citizens, both are natives of the county and both belong to pioneer families which have done much to bring about the county's development along every line of industry. Mrs. Moseley is a member of the Methodist church at Wymore and her husband is serving the third year as a member of the school board of his district.

TOBE PABEN was born in Hanover, Germany, November 13, 1853. His parents were Henry and Mary (Gerdes) Paben. When he was but ten years old his father died, and the lad was thrown on his own resources. Later his mother remarried; and after the death of her second husband, Wert Buss, she and her son came alone to this country, settling in Adams county, Illinois. Here the mother died.

Mr. Paben was only fourteen years of age at the time of his arrival in America, but he at once started to work on a farm, in which employment he continued until 1873, when he joined the United States Regular Army, serving until 1878, in Texas and New Mexico, and fighting in the Indian wars. He completed his enlistment with credit and was given an honorable discharge. Having thus given his

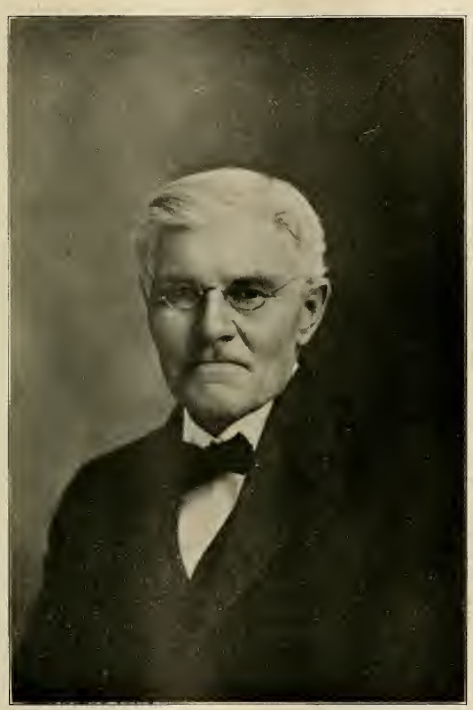
service to his country, he returned to his home in Illinois, where he operated a rented farm for two years. Then, feeling that urge which has prompted men to leave old countries for new and which is the moving cause of emigration from older settlements to newer, he came to Nebraska, and took up a homestead in Cheyenne county. He first lived, as nearly all of the other settlers did, in a sod house, and this was later replaced by one of stone, showing clearly how the new country changed quickly from a group of crude settlements into a well ordered farming district. Ten years later, in 1890, he drove with a team to Lawrence, Missouri, where he remained for three years. From there he drove to Bates county, Missouri, and after remaining there for three years he went to Lyons, Kansas. He lived there for seven years, and then returned to Nebraska, settling this time in Logan township, Gage county. Here he owns, in Section 15, a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres of well cultivated land, improved with the good buildings typical of our best farms. He has served since residing here as a member of the school board, and for the past seven years has been township treasurer.

Mr. Paben married Marie Flessner, a native of Hanover, Germany, and she is now deceased. Four children were born of this marriage, three of whom are living in Gage county, Nebraska: Henry, who is not married; Maria, who is married; Frank, who is married and resides in Beatrice. The place of abode of Menne, the other child, is not at present known by his father. For his second wife Mr. Paben married Engel (Flessner) Johnson, who although bearing the same name as his former wife was in no way related to her. She is a native of Germany and came to this country when nine years of age, with her parents, Gerhard and Hannah Flessner. They too settled in Adams county, Illinois: her father is still living, aged eighty-seven years. By a former marriage, with Benjamin Johnson, Mrs. Paben became the mother of three children, two of whom are living: Wert, who is married and resides in Gage county, and Lena, who is married and resides in Lyons, Kansas; Hannah, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Paben have a family of six children, all but one of whom reside in Gage county: Misses Anna and Tena, are at home; Ekie, who is married, is also at the parental home; George, who is married, and Bertha, who is married, both reside in Gage county; and Sena, who is married, resides in Lancaster county. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

It can appropriately be said of Mr. Paben that he is one of the great "world's vanguard," for he has been in many parts of the country when in their frontier stage, has shared with other pioneers the hardships which beset the settlers of western Nebraska in the early '80s, and has done his part in making Nebraska a better country for those who will come after him.

CHRISTIAN HAVERLAND. — The life record of Christian Haverland exemplifies what may be accomplished by industry and perseverance and will serve as an inspiration for those who are willing to work, to apply themselves industriously and to improve their opportunities.

The subject of this memoir was born in Germany, June 22, 1836, and there made his home until 1869, when he decided to seek a home in America. December 26, 1855, he married Miss Dora Brower, and, after a voyage of fourteen days on the steamship "Germany" they landed in New York city on the 10th of June. They immediately started for Illinois, arriving in Woodford county on the 15th of the same month. During the first year he worked on the railroad by the month and engaged in such other work as would secure him an honest livelihood. He then rented land and engaged in farming. He remained in that county until 1881, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and rented land in Riverside township, where he lived five years. He then removed to Sicily township where he had bought land three years previously and where he spent the remainder of his days, his death having occurred October 31, 1916. The wife he married in Germany and who



CHRISTIAN HAVERLAND

accompanied him to America passed away in Woodford county, Illinois, in December, 1874, and in December, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sherling. Of the first marriage two children, Emma and William, were born in Germany and Louis was born in Illinois. These three children still make their home on the farm in Sicily township. To the second marriage were born three children: Herman resides in Burbank, California; Minnie is a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Frederick died at the age of twenty-six years.

When Mr. Haverland arrived in America his possessions in worldly goods consisted of one hundred and fifty dollars in money, but he was possessed of sterling integrity and a determination to win, with the result that he made a success of life. He was a good Christian man and loyal citizen. Pioneer conditions still existed in Gage county when he came here and he did his full share to help make it a better place in which to live. Three children, unmarried, still continue to make their home on the farm where the father spent so many years and they are not only appreciative of the fact that he left them a splendid property and home, but also cherish his memory and hold in loving remembrance the name of one who commanded the respect and unqualified esteem of all who knew him. His sons and daughters to-day occupy an enviable place in the community. The two sons in Gage county carry on their agricultural pursuits and continue in the noble line of productive endeavor followed so earnestly and effectively by their honored father.

HENRY KRUEGER belongs to that sterling and industrious class of citizens which Germany has furnished to the United States, his birth having occurred in the Province of Hanover, Germany, March 10, 1853, and his parents, Christ and Margaret Krueger, having spent their entire lives in their native land. When a young man of eighteen years Henry Krueger came to the United States, and his first American experience was gained during sixteen months passed on a farm at Downer's Grove, near Chicago, Illinois. He then came to Kansas and worked on a farm near Hanover, in Washington county. Carefully saving his earnings, he finally was able to purchase one hundred and seventy-five acres in Glenwood township, Gage county, Nebraska, just outside the corporate limits of Odell. Here he was successfully engaged in farming for several years. Six years ago he purchased two hundred and forty acres in the same township, and here he now makes his home. He is the owner of four hundred and fifteen acres of land, and this statement indicates the prosperity that has come to him, and that entirely through the earnest efforts and careful management of himself and his good wife.

Mr. Krueger married Miss Caroline Shatta, who is a native of Marshall county, Kansas, and of German descent. Concerning their children the following record is given: Katie is the wife of Henry Bachhouse, of Horton, Kansas; Lena, is the wife of Howard Avey, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Henry is a farmer in Glenwood township; Lizzie, is the wife of Fay Phillips, a farmer in Paddock township; and Dora, Fred, John, Tracy, Frank, and Jesse are all at home. The family attend the Christian church. In politics Mr. Krueger is a Democrat. He has no reason to regret coming to America, for here he has found an opportunity the old world could not offer, and has been a very successful man.

HERBERT R. RUYLE, whose pleasant home is at 1518 Elk street in the city of Beatrice, is a representative of one of the well known families of Gage county and on other pages of this publication is given adequate record concerning the family history, these data appearing in the memoir dedicated to his father, the late William H. Ruyle.

He whose name initiates this sketch has won high reputation through his service as a public auctioneer, and has conducted innumerable auction sales throughout this section of the state. He was born in Logan township, this county, on the 23d of March, 1885, and was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Gage county, Nebraska, his common school education having been supplemented by a

course in a business college in Beatrice, and a course in agriculture at the University of Nebraska. His independent activities as a farmer were initiated in this county and were continued four years, at the expiration of which he went to Franklin county, where he engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock and also in farm auctioneering. His facility as an expert auctioneer has substantial basis, for in 1907 he was graduated in the Jones Auctioneering College, in the city of Chicago. Mr. Ruyle continued his residence in Franklin county until October, 1915, when he established his residence in the city of Beatrice.

February 16, 1907, recorded the marriage of Mr. Ruyle to Miss Ina A. Jeffries, who was born at Springfield, Illinois, on the 4th of June, 1886, a daughter of William B. and Martha (Lester) Jeffries, natives respectively of Tennessee and Illinois, in which latter state their marriage was solemnized, and whence they came to Nebraska and settled in Gage county in 1886, their home at the present time being on a farm a few miles east of Beatrice. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffries the eldest is Edith, who is the wife of Earl Wright, of Peru, this state; Mrs. Ruyle was the next in order of birth; William E. is a farmer in Rockford township; Lillie E. is the wife of Thomas Dunn, of the same township; and Frances remains at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Ruyle have four children: Edna E., Everett H., Jeanette I. and Martha L.

In politics Mr. Ruyle is numbered among the loyal supporters of the cause of the Democratic party and he and his wife are members of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church in Beatrice. In addition to his substantial auctioneering business Mr. Ruyle is the owner of a well improved farm, in Rockford township.

OLIVER C. MUMFORD, whose homestead farm, an integral part of the undivided family estate, is situated in Section 4, Logan township, is one of the vigorous and popular young representatives of farm enterprise in his native county, adequate record concerning the family history being given on other pages of this publication, — in the sketch of the career of G. L. Mumford.

Oliver C. Mumford was born in Logan township, on the 26th of August, 1887, and was reared to the benignant discipline of the farm, the while he made proper use of the advantages of the public schools of his home township. His entire adult career has been marked by consecutive association with farm enterprise on land comprising a part of the estate of his father, and in his progressive operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower he now utilizes an adequate area of land. Mr. Mumford is a fancier of fine horses and is the owner of a standard-bred horse to which he has given the name of "Fred Hill," this animal having made a turf record of 19¼; the horse was sired by "Milton Cook," and its dam was "Alice Hill." Mr. Mumford takes deep interest in all things touching the wellbeing of the county in which he was born and reared and with the history of which the family name has been worthily linked since the early pioneer days. In politics he gives his allegiance to the Democratic party.

January 22, 1913, recorded the marriage of Mr. Mumford to Miss Ginevra Nietman, who was born in the city of Beatrice, this county, a daughter of Henry and Minnie (Jens) Nietman, both of whom were born in Germany and both of whom were children at the time of the immigration of the respective families to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Neitman came to Gage county in the '80s and she is now deceased, Mr. Nietman being now retired from active business and still retaining his residence at Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Mumford have a winsome little daughter, Kathryn Loraine, who was born December 23, 1914. Mr. Mumford is affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and his wife is a member of the Lutheran church.

STEPHEN A. SMITH, — Since the pioneer days the subject of this review has been a resident of Gage county and not only has he been witness of the changes that have taken place but has also, for forty-eight years, been

an active force in bringing about our present day development.

Stephen Allen Smith was born in McMinn county, Tennessee, March 17, 1845, and is the son of Elijah S. and Mary J. (Winton) Smith, the former a native of North Carolina and of English descent, the latter born in Tennessee, in which state they were married April 4, 1844. In 1849 they moved to Illinois and became pioneer settlers of McDonough county, where Elijah S. Smith achieved substantial success as a farmer. They spent the remainder of their lives in this county, living retired in later years at Goodhope, Illinois, where they both passed away.

The boyhood days of Stephen A. Smith were spent on the Illinois farm and his early education was gained in the public schools of the neighborhood, this discipline being supplemented by his attending a college at Burlington, Iowa. When a young man of twenty-one years he began his independent career, — working on a farm by the month, and in those days one dollar a day was considered large wages for the service which he thus rendered.

In 1870 Mr. Smith came to Nebraska in true pioneer style. He drove overland with team and covered wagon and crossed the Missouri river at Nebraska City. After reaching the Nebraska side he started west, and the wind was blowing such a gale that he saw plows and harrows left in the fields and nearly covered with sand. This could not have proved a very encouraging sight, but he pressed on and arrived at Beatrice, Gage county on the 19th of April. He found lodging at Blythe's bakery and hotel and the next morning started for Sicily township, intending to follow the ridge south from Beatrice. It was snowing and blowing so badly that he could hardly see, and after many hours he came to a road. This he followed, and toward evening he could see ahead of him, signs of a settlement. As he drew near he found he had returned to Beatrice, from the west, as he had traveled in a circle during the storm. Again he stayed all night in the same place as the night before. The next day, under more favorable circumstances, he reached his destination in Sicily township, where he and his brothers had bought three hundred and twenty acres of wild, unbroken prairie. Mr. Smith set resolutely to work to make a home. After ten years he sold his one hundred and sixty acres there and moved to Blue Springs township, where his wife had inherited a tract of land. For many years Mr. Smith conducted a nursery on his farm, and thus he aided and encouraged in no small degree the planting of trees, both fruit and ornamental. His landed possessions in Gage county were three hundred and twenty acres, in Blue Springs township, and he also owns land in Kansas and Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have for several years past made visits to Canada during the successive summers and have there spent several weeks in recreation and looking after their investments.

On November 11, 1874, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Smith to Miss Henrietta Tobyne, who was born in Ogle county, Illinois, July 19, 1855. She is a daughter of James N. and Caroline (Zeitz) Tobyne, the former born in Canada, the latter in Germany. Mrs. Smith's parents became residents of Gage county, May 19, 1868: they settled in Blue Springs township, where the father became an extensive land owner, and in this township they both passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Tobyne died at the age of sixty-one years, and his wife was sixty-two years of age at the time of her death.

Three children came to make the home happy for Mr. and Mrs. Smith: Leslie Allen died at the age of twenty-two years; Lenley Elton married Miss Lizzie McMichaels and he is a farmer in Blue Springs township; and Miss Estelle A. remains with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist church, in which they have been active workers for many years. In politics Mr. Smith was a Democrat for many years, but he is now inclined to vote for men and measures, regardless of party. In recent years he has given his support to the prohibition movement, the cause of temperance finding in him a stalwart champion. He served as

treasurer of his school district while residing in Sicily township, as did he also after removing to Blue Springs township and while here living on his farm. When the Farmers' Grain Company of Blue Springs was organized, sixteen years ago, Mr. Smith was one of its founders, and he has served as its president since that time.

Mr. Smith and his wife and daughter occupy a beautiful home in Blue Springs, surrounded with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life, and though retired from the active labors of former years Mr. Smith still keeps in touch with affairs connected with the Grain Company and otherwise gives his supervision to his investments. He is one of Gage county's most respected citizens, and the success and honor that have come to him are justly deserved.

FRED N. CRANGLE, an active and representative business man at Blue Springs, was born in Henry county, Illinois, January 2, 1874. He is a son of William F. Crangle, of Beatrice, (a sketch of whom appears on other pages of this history.)

Fred N. Crangle came to Nebraska with his parents when a child, and received his early education in the country schools of Gage county, after which he took a course in the Northwestern Business College of Beatrice. He followed farming in Gage county for a number of years. In 1910 Mr. Crangle moved to Butler county, Kansas, where he bought a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres, which he still owns, besides being the owner of land in Sedgwick county, that state. For four years Mr. Crangle was traveling salesman for the International Harvester Company, and at one time he was assistant state manager in Kansas for that company. In 1915 he returned to Beatrice, but soon afterward he moved to Blue Springs and began work for Black Brothers' Mill Company, in charge of their grain elevator. By this company he is still employed.

On June 8, 1898, Mr. Crangle was united in marriage to Miss Nettie A. Cavett, daughter of Reuben and Calista Cavett. Mrs. Crangle was born in Illinois and came to Gage county with her parents in 1882. Mr. Cavett now makes his home with the Crangle family in Blue Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Crangle are the parents of four children: Paul, Beulah, Bessie, and Abbie.

In politics Mr. Crangle is a Republican. He is a member of the Royal Highlanders at Beatrice, and he and his family are members of the Methodist church.

Mr. Crangle has been a very successful man and now owns several hundred acres of land in Kansas, besides a nice home in the town of Blue Springs.

THEODORE BOHNSTEDT maintains representative status as one of the prominent and influential exponents of farm industry in Hanover township, where his attractive homestead place is situated in Section 10, and as a substantial and honored citizen of the county he merits specific recognition in this publication.

Mr. Bohnstedt was born in Richland county, Illinois, August 10, 1862, and is a son of Charles and Mary E. (Capel) Bohnstedt, the former a native of Germany and the latter of the state of Pennsylvania. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Zanesville, Ohio, and within a short time thereafter they removed to Richland county, Illinois, where Charles Bohnstedt purchased a farm of eighty acres. He became one of the successful farmers and representative citizens of Richland county and there continued his residence until his death, which occurred June 9, 1915, his widow being still a resident of the county in which they established their home many years ago. Mr. Bohnstedt was a Democrat prior to the Civil war and thereafter transferred his allegiance to the Republican party. His religious faith was that of the Evangelical church, his widow now being a member of the United Brethren church. He finally traded his farm for property in the village of Olney, Illinois, where he passed the residue of his life. He was a son of Charles Bohnstedt, who established the family home in Pennsylvania upon coming to America, but who later

removed to Ohio and finally to Illinois, in which state his death occurred. David Capel, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was a native of France and after coming to the United States he established his home in Pennsylvania, whence he later removed to Ohio, where he passed the rest of his life.

Theodore Bohnstedt was reared and educated in Illinois and was twenty-three years of age when, in 1885, he came to Nebraska and established his home in Gage county. For two years he was here employed by William Townsend, one of whose daughters he eventually wedded, and after thus taking to himself a wife he resided one year in the city of Beatrice. He then turned his attention to farm industry, and since 1909 he has rented and conducted progressive farm enterprise on the half section of land which he rents of Robert Littlejohn. He follows a vigorous course in his operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower and makes his business enterprise one of definitely successful order.

In May, 1887, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bohnstedt to Miss Mary Townsend, a daughter of the late William Townsend, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume. Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bohnstedt eight are living: Harry L. is a skilled mechanic and is employed in an electric-light plant at Oak, Nebraska; and the other children remain at the parental home, — Hazel, Velma, Duane, Maude, Mabel, Marjorie and Preston.

In politics Mr. Bohnstedt is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and though he has had no ambition for official preferment of any kind he has shown his civic loyalty by effective service as road supervisor and as a member of the school board of his district.

GEORGE N. PENCE was twenty-four years of age when he came from the old Buckeye state to Gage county, in 1885; and his activities since that time have shown significantly that a generous measure of prosperity has been here possible of achievement on the part of the man of industry and integrity who will apply himself diligently along the line of agricultural and live-stock enterprise. He owns and has made excellent improvements upon his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 18, Logan township, where he is now living practically retired, the farm being rented to a good tenant.

George Newton Pence was born in Adams county, Ohio, on the 13th of August, 1861, and is a son of Louis and Harriet (Mowry) Pence, who passed their entire lives in that fine old commonwealth. Mr. Pence was reared and educated in Ohio and there continued his association with agricultural pursuits until 1885, when he came to Gage county and found employment at farm work, at a compesation of eighteen dollars a month. He carefully conserved his earnings during the eight years he was thus engaged and then turned his attention to independent activities on a rented farm. Finally he purchased his present homestead, in 1902, and he has developed the same into one of the excellent farms of Logan township, all of the buildings on the place having been erected by him and unequivocal success having attended his efforts during his active career as a progressive and substantial exponent of farm enterprise in Gage county. He is aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party, has been liberal in support of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community but has had no ambition for political activity or official preferement.

In 1889 Mr. Pence married Miss Clara B. Mumford, who was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of the late John B. Mumford, an early settler and honored pioneer of the county. Mrs. Pence passed to the life eternal in 1901 and is survived by one son, Albert, who is a successful farmer in Logan township.

WALTER V. LANCASTER, who is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, his pleasant home being at 625 North Eighth street, held for a quarter of a century a place of prominence as one of the representative farm-

ers of this county, and he is still the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres, in Holt township.

Walter Vivian Lancaster was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, August 15, 1863, and is a son of William Lancaster, whose father, Frank Lancaster, was a pioneer settler in the state of Illinois, adequate record concerning the family history being given on other pages of this publication, in the sketch dedicated to Raymond Lancaster, a brother of him whose name introduces this article. Walter V. Lancaster was reared and educated in his native county, where he attended the district schools and later the village schools of Girard. He assisted his father in farm operations and upon attaining to his legal majority he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased his present landed estate of two hundred and forty acres, in Holt township, the farm having been reclaimed and measureably improved. He made this one of the model farms of the township and there developed a most prosperous enterprise along the lines of diversified agriculture, stockgrowing and dairying, special success having attended his activities as a feeder and shipper of cattle, in which field of enterprise his operations were conducted on a somewhat extensive scale. After remaining on his farm for twenty-five years he removed to Beatrice and his younger son now has the active management of the farm.

Mr. Lancaster has shown lively interest in the things that touch the communal welfare, is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and in addition to having served three years as clerk of Holt township he served many years as school director of his district while still residing on his farm.

In Illinois, in 1884, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Lancaster to Miss Alice Barnes, who was born in Mason county, that state, a daughter of George and Clarissa (Hovey) Barnes, natives respectively of Vermont and Massachusetts and both young at the time of the removal of the respective families to Macoupin county, Illinois. In that county was recorded the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes and eventually they removed to Mason county, that state, where he engaged in farming. In that county Mrs. Barnes remained until her death and her husband passed the closing years of his life with his daughter, in Gage county, Nebraska. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Lancaster was Nathaniel Barnes and her maternal grandfather, Daniel Gilbert Hovey, was a minuteman who gave patriotic service as a soldier in the war of the Revolution. Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church and they have a wide circle of friends in their home city and county. They have two children: Clark is a skilled mechanic and he and his wife, whose maiden name was May Evans, reside with his parents, their children being Mabel and Eunice; Oscar W., who has charge of his father's farm, married Miss Maude Ford and they have three children, — Eliza, Beatrice and William Walter.

ROBERT C. HEMPHILL. — The late Robert C. Hemphill was one of the gallant patriots who fought to save our country from dissolution when its integrity was menaced by armed rebellion, and who fought equally well in the great nature-conflict necessary to redeem the prairies and make them blossom as the rose. Mr. Hemphill served in the Civil war for three years, in the Army of the Potomac, as a member of Company F, Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. He served his country faithfully. There were no brilliant attacks or high-handed captures to his credit, but he knew all of the hardships and privations the soldier had to undergo to be at hand when his country needed him. But with all of the hardships came the glory at the end, when his country was united in body and spirit. He was honorably discharged May 2, 1865.

Robert Hemphill was born April 24, 1841, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. On the 13th of February, 1868, he married Margaret J. Brown and to this union were born nine children, eight of whom are living: Robert B. is a resident of Riverside township, Gage county; Ella O. is the wife of W. P. Carrithers, of Beatrice; William J. resides at

MRS. ROBERT C. HEMPHILL

ROBERT C. HEMPHILL

Lincoln, Nebraska; Bessie died November 30, 1899; Walter C. resides in Lincoln township, this county; Helen M. is the wife of C. H. Lunbeck, living at Blue Springs, Nebraska; Carrie B. is the wife of Lewis Sears, of Ballston Spa, New York; Charles V. lives in Lincoln township, Gage county; and Agnes O. is the wife of Ralph Clark, of Riverside township.

In 1883 Robert C. Hemphill came with his family to Beatrice, Nebraska, and purchased land southwest of the city, in what is now Elm township. He came in the days when the pioneer front guards had opened the way but when there was need for men of determined spirit and a willingness to make sacrifices for the upbuilding of a great agricultural community. He continued his successful farm enterprise until 1908, when he retired and established his home in the city of Beatrice, where he remained until his death, January 24, 1918. He was an honored member of Rawlins Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, at Beatrice, and just before his demise he was elected commander of the post, though he officiated at only one meeting after his election.

When Mr. Hemphill and his wife came to this county, in 1883, they allied themselves with the Presbyterian church. In 1888 he was elected ruling elder, and for thirty years he filled this place with true Christian faithfulness. In its support this church received liberally of his time and money at all times. He was interested also in his township and county, and when they needed a man to be a servant of the people he gave of his time and ability to such service. He was a member of the Gage county board of supervisors and was county assessor for five years. In this latter capacity he became specially well known to many of the residents of the county.

Mr. Hemphill's devoted wife was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1846, and she passed to her reward September 17, 1909. Two sons, Walter C., and Charles V., purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 28, Lincoln township, in 1911. These two brothers are farming these acres jointly. They were just lads when they arrived in Gage county and have spent the greater part of their lives here. Walter C. was born February 20, 1875, and Charles V. was born March 1, 1881, both being natives of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. They received their education in the district schools and have devoted their time to the tilling of the soil. They are successful farmers, having improved their farm with not only utility in view but beauty as well. The commodious house and barn well attest to their ability and progressiveness. On their farm they feed a good many cattle for the market each year and this business is done on a somewhat extensive scale.

Charles V. Hemphill married Miss Maude Wells, of Jefferson county, Nebraska, and they have four children, Neva, Ruby, Dorothy, and Clark — all at home with their parents.

Walter C. Hemphill is still a bachelor and shares the home with his brother and family. These two young men are valued members of their community, conduct their farming operations in a strictly businesslike manner and they are keeping abreast of the time along agricultural lines. They are Republicans in politics.

ANTON DVORAK. — The subject of this record is a prosperous farmer residing in Glenwood township. He was born in Bohemia, Germany, February 1, 1866. His parents, Frank and Frances Dvorak, also natives of Bohemia, came to the United States in 1876 and settled in Richardson county, Nebraska, where the father became a prosperous farmer and extensive land owner. Both passed away in Richardson county, the father at the age of seventy years and the mother at seventy-five. They were the parents of four sons, all of whom are living: Frank, resides in Pawnee county, Nebraska, and Adolph in Missouri; Anton is the subject of this sketch; and John lives in Chicago.

Anton Dvorak was ten years old when the home was transferred to the New World, and until the age of twenty-two he remained on his father's farm in Richardson county. He

than began his independent career as a farmer on land given him by his father. He had a team of horses, a few tools, and with this equipment he went to work. He was the owner of two hundred acres in Pawnee county when, twenty-two years ago, he came to Gage county and purchased his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He also helped his son buy a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He is engaged in general farming and has one of the well improved properties of the township.

In Richardson county, he was married to Miss Antonia Svarckop. She was born in Bohemia, in August, 1868, a daughter of Hynek and Barbara Svarckop, who came from their native land many years ago and were farming people of Richardson county, where both passed the rest of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Dvorak are the parents of six children: Mary, is the wife of Frank Cacek; Frank, a farmer of Glenwood township; Anna, Charles, Amos and Blanche are still under the parental roof. The family are Presbyterians in religious belief and Mr. Dvorak votes with the Democratic party in national affairs, while at local elections he is independent of partisan lines. He is a good farmer, a first-class citizen and has a host of friends.

BRUNE C. MEINTS has been a resident of Nebraska since he was fourteen years of age and due record concerning the family history appears on other pages, in the sketch dedicated to his father, Christ J. Meints. He whose name initiates this paragraph acquired his youthful education in the district schools of Nebraska and was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days. He was born in Adams county, Illinois, October 21, 1867, and he has been consecutively associated with farm industry in Nebraska from his youth to the present time. Definite success has crowned his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower and he is now the owner of a well improved farm estate of two hundred and forty acres, in Logan township, where his attractive home is located in Section 16. On his homestead he has erected excellent buildings, including a commodious farm residence, and he has long been known as one of the progressive farmers and substantial and public-spirited citizens of Logan township. He is staunchly arrayed as a supporter of the cause of the Republican party and while he has not sought political preferment his insistent interest in local affairs has been shown in the effective service he has given as road supervisor, of which position he is the incumbent at the time of this writing. Both he and his wife are active communicants of the Hanover Lutheran church, as was also his first wife.

In 1891 Mr. Meints wedded Miss Grace Ihnen, who likewise was born in Adams county, Illinois, and who was a daughter of Onke Ihnen, who was a successful merchant in Illinois and who died in Butler county, Nebraska, where he had become a successful farmer. To this marriage were born eight children: Christ is married and resides on a farm northwest of the village of Pickrell, this county; Onie is married and is engaged in farm enterprise in Logan township; and Henry, Jennie, Grace, William, John, and Brune remain as members of the home circle. The mother of these children passed away in 1909. Mr. Meints later married Miss Mary Hattesohl, a native of Wisconsin, and she is the popular head of the domestic affairs of the pleasant home.

JOSEPH CACEK. — Born in Bohemia, in 1832, and reared to manhood in his native land, the late Joseph Cacek married Miss Anna Tepla, who was born in Bohemia in 1840. Mr. Cacek's patriotism is shown by the fact that he served eight years in the military organization of his country, — four years on land and four in the navy. In 1867 he came with his family to America and they resided in the city of Detroit, Michigan until 1874, when he became a pioneer settler of Gage county, Nebraska, locating at Clatonia. Five years later he bought land in Paddock township, and etsablished a home on the northeast quarter of Section 8. Here he built a frame house, and, with the help of his family, began

the development of a farm. As the years passed he succeeded, and he made additional investments in land, becoming one of the well-to-do men of the county. Mr. Cacek made three trips to the old country and on one of these journeys he passed away, in 1912, his wife having died in 1896. Mr. Cacek's success was due to his own and his family's efforts, as he landed in America with but twenty-five cents. He lived to be seventy years old and had the pleasure of seeing the members of his family all well established in homes of their own.

To this worthy couple was born four children, as follows: Joseph and John, farmers in Paddock township; Mrs. Rimund Weiner, of Sicily township, and Mrs. Joseph Bures, of Glenwood township. The parents were communicants of the Catholic church, and in the upbuilding of Gage county they did their full share.

CHARLES H. HOLLINGWORTH is a member of a representative Gage county family concerning which adequate record is given on other pages of this work, and he was born on the fine old homestead farm which is now his place of residence, in Section 32 Rockford township, the date of his nativity having been March 12, 1865, which signifies emphatically that his parents were numbered among the territorial pioneers of the county. He remained with his parents on the old home place until their death and then came into possession of ninety-two acres of the property, his fine home being the substantial stone house that was erected more than forty years ago, by his brother Alfred C., of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. This house is one of the veritable landmarks of this section of the state and Mr. Hollingworth takes much satisfaction in the fact that he is able to uphold the prestige of the family name in connection with loyal citizenship and constructive farm industry in Gage county, where he was reared under the influences of the pioneer days and where he gained his early education in the common schools of the period. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and he and his wife are members of the Christian church in the city of Beatrice.

In 1892 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hollingworth to Miss Anna L. DeWitt, who was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, and they have but one child, Jessie L., who attended the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, this state, and who is now a successful and popular teacher in the public schools at Holmesville, not far distant from the old homestead.

Mr. Hollingworth's first school teacher was Hugh J. Dobbs, the author of this history of Gage county, and he recalls with humorous appreciation that on one occasion Mr. Dobbs disciplined him for some youthful prank or remissness by making him stand at a knot hole in a log and hold his toe in the aperture, as a matter of punishment.

CHARLES N. HINDS, cashier of the Hinds State Bank of Odell, is a native of Iowa, born near Postville, November 2, 1871, a son of Edwin B. Hinds, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Charles Norton Hinds was a lad of nine years when the family home was transferred to Odell, Nebraska, where he attended the public schools and was a member of the first graduating class of Odell high school, in 1891. In 1895 he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska, at Lincoln, and in 1896 the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the same institution. Thereafter he was professor of history at York College, York, Nebraska, for one year. Then, for five years, he was in the office of the register of deeds at Beatrice, after which he organized the Commercial State Bank at Barneston and became cashier. In 1903 he returned to Odell and became cashier of the Hinds State Bank, of which his father is president and principal owner.

He was united in marriage to Miss Jessie A. Walker, a native of Wisconsin and they are the parents of these children: Clarence E., Lulu A., Hazel D., William Walker, Edwin Shaw and James Pershing.

Both by education and temperment Mr.

Hinds is well qualified for the executive position of which he is the incumbent in the Hinds State Bank. He has a genial disposition, which begets friendship and good will, and at the same time possesses that dignity and bearing which inspire confidence. He is a personal friend of General John J. Pershing, who was commander of the Nebraska University Battalion for four years while he was a lieutenant in the United States army, and Mr. Hinds passed through the grades of service and attained the rank of first lieutenant of Company B. He has been solicited to enter the service of Uncle Sam and been tendered prominent positions in the army by his old friend, who now commands the United States forces on the battlefields of Europe.

Mr. Hinds is a Republican in politics and fraternally is a member in good standing of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America lodges of Odell.

NOAH WRIGHTSMAN, a substantial retired farmer residing in the attractive village of Holmesville, has been a resident of Gage county since 1888 and has here won independence through his active alliance with farm industry. He was born in one of the eastern counties of Virginia, January 23, 1848, and is a son of Samuel and Annie (Wirtz) Wrightsman, who likewise were natives of the historic Old Dominion state.

Noah Wrightsman acquired his youthful education in his native state and was seventeen years old when he accompanied his parents to Macoupin county, Illinois, where his father engaged in farming, the parents having passed the remainder of their lives in that county. When Noah attained to the age of twenty years his father "gave him his time," and for the ensuing six years he was employed by the month at farm work. He then engaged in farming for himself, in Macoupin county, Illinois, where he continued his activities until 1888, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and bought eighty acres of land in Rockford township. He improved the buildings on the place, erected new buildings and eventually developed one of the fine farm properties of the township, where he still retains ownership of the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, besides which he owns two residence properties at Holmesville and a tract of land in Thomas county, Kansas. He retired from his farm in 1908 and has since maintained his residence in Holmesville.

In the year 1875 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wrightsman to Miss Susan Brubaker, of Tennessee, in which state she was born and reared, and she is a sister of Benjamin A. Brubaker, a well known farmer of Rockford township. Mr. and Mrs. Wrightsman have three children: Harvey P., of Holmesville, is married and has two children; Elmer C., who is married and has six children, is associated with his bachelor brother, Otis F., in the operation of their father's farm. Mr. Wrightsman is a Republican in politics and he and his family are members of the Church of the Brethren, commonly designated as the Dunkard church.

JOHN APPLEBEE was a youth of fourteen years when he came with his parents to Nebraska Territory and during the long intervening years he has maintained his residence in Gage county, where he has been an appreciative witness of the splendid march of development and progress, in which he himself has played a sturdy and worthy part. In Section 16, Hanover township, he is the owner of the farm of eighty acres upon which he resides, and which is a part of the old home place of his father. This he utilizes in his farm operations.

Mr. Applebee was born in La Salle county, Illinois, July 20, 1851, and is a son of John and Ella (Denton) Applebee, both natives of the state of New York, their marriage having been solemnized in Illinois. In the latter state John Applebee, Sr., continued his association with farm industry until 1865, when he came with his family to Nebraska Territory and became a pioneer settler of Gage county. His household effects were shipped by rail and river to Nebraska City, from which point he transported them to Gage county by team and

JOHN APPLEBEE

wagon. He settled on the farm now owned by his son John, girded himself vigorously for the arduous work in hand, and eventually reclaimed and improved his land. This honored pioneer passed the closing period of his life in the home of his son William, of Filley, this county, and attained to the patriarchal age of ninety-two years, his wife having passed away on the old homestead place, at the age of eighty-four years. Concerning their children the following brief data are available: William is deceased; Edward is a farmer in Hanover township; John, subject of this review, was the next in order of birth; Jennie is the wife of Alfred Boyer, of Virginia, this county; Hannah became the wife of Frank Boyer and her death occurred several years ago; James is a resident of Nemaha township; and Jesse maintains his home in the city of Beatrice.

He whose name initiates this article acquired his early education in the schools of Illinois and Gage county and was reared to manhood on the farm which he now owns and occupies. He was still a young man when he relieved his father to a large extent of the management of the farm and since the property came into his possession he has made numerous improvements on the same. He has borne his share of the heavy labors involved in the developing of a farm from the primitive wilds, encountered his measure of hardships and reverses, but has reason to take just pride in the material prosperity that has crowned his efforts. In the early days he witnessed the ravages of many prairie fires and was often called upon to plow around his stacks of grain to save them from such conflagrations. As a youth he worked at times for other pioneers of the county, as did also his father, and at times they would go to points twelve or more miles distant in the morning hours, apply themselves to work during the day and return to the home at night. He recalls the depredations and havoc wrought in the historic grasshopper scourge of 1872-1873, when the insects were so thick in the harvest fields as to obscure the bundles of grain. He followed in many a harvest the old-time reaper and bound the grain by hand, and for three years the family home was provided with water from what was ironically termed a dry-land well — three barrels on a wagon, by means of which water was hauled from a spring two miles distant. The corn raised on the Applebee farm in the pioneer era was frequently sold for ten cents a bushel, and the great change in conditions is shown in the fact that in the summer of 1917 Mr. Applebee sold a load of corn, at Pickrell, for one hundred and thirteen dollars and forty cents, to realize which return in the early days it would have been necessary to sell fully a thousand bushels. Under primitive conditions Mr. Applebee applied himself earnestly and vigorously, and his attitude under the present conditions of opulent prosperity in the county has not changed, as he continued to have the deepest appreciation of the dignity and value of honest toil and endeavor. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, but he has never been diverted from the even tenor of his way by any ambition for political activity or public office.

Mr. Applebee was twenty-one years of age at the time of his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Griffin, and her death occurred in 1887. Of their children the first two died in infancy; Emma is the widow of Albert Brinton, of Hanover township; Elmer is a farmer in the same township; Walter resides in the village of Pickrell; and Viola is the wife of Pearl Stanley, of Beatrice. The second marriage of Mr. Applebee was with Miss Ida Post, who was born in Illinois, and she presides most graciously over their pleasant and hospitable home. Of their children two died in infancy, and those surviving are Pearl (the wife of Jesse Green, of Haxton, Colorado), Mary, Edna, Annie, Clyde, Esther, Ruby, Hazel, Erma, and Myrtle.

LEWIS C. McCLUNG is consistently to be designated as one of the representative exponents of farm industry in Sherman township, where he is carrying forward his progressive operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower with a well improved estate of four hundred

acres, owned by himself and his wife, their pleasant home being in Section 8 of the township mentioned, and the same being known for its generous hospitality and good cheer.

Mr. McClung was born in Johnson county, this state, on the 30th of January, 1878, and on other pages of this volume is given adequate record concerning the family, he being a son of the late Justin O. McClung, to whom a memoir is thus given.

Mr. McClung was reared on his father's farm in Filley township, this county, and attended schools in the village of Filley. At the age of twenty-six years he married and engaged in independent farm operations in Sherman township, where he has since continued his successful activities and won for himself secure vantage-place as an energetic and progressive farmer and public-spirited citizen. His wife received three hundred and twenty acres of land as a heritage from the estate of her father and Mr. and Mrs. McClung have since added to its area until they have one of the best farm properties in Sherman township. They are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he gives a basic allegiance to the Republican party.

In the year 1904 Mr. McClung wedded Miss Cora Chichester, who was born in Filley township, this county, a daughter of Samuel and Martha (Forbes) Chichester, who were natives of Illinois and who became pioneer settlers in Gage county, where both died when Mrs. McClung was a child, she having been reared in the home of William Reed, another pioneer of the county. Mr. and Mrs. McClung have no children.

JOSEPH SHALLA. — Born on his father's farm in Glenwood township, where his boyhood days were spent in attending the public schools and receiving instruction in the best methods of agriculture under the direction of his father, the subject of this review wisely chose the occupation to which he had been reared and for the past three years has been operating a farm of one-hundred and sixty acres in Section 16, Glenwood township.

Joseph Shalla was born August 3, 1893 and February 10, 1915, he married Miss Jennie Pribyl, a daughter of Milton and Mary (Bednar) Pribyl.

Mr. Shalla, though still a young man, is making a success of his farming venture and is becoming one of the substantial citizens of Glenwood township, where his entire life thus far has been passed.

AUGUST ADAM. — A native son of Gage county and a representative of one of its early pioneer families is August Adam, who owns and operates an excellent farm of two hundred acres in Glenwood township. He was born on his father's farm in this township, December 4, 1887, a son of Ernst Adam, of whom individual record is made on other pages. His boyhood days were spent on the home farm, where he learned the best methods of agriculture under the direction of his father and he attended the public schools to acquire his education. He inherited his farm from the estate of his parents and has been operating this for the past six years. An excellent set of buildings has been put on the place since it came into his possession and he is one of the successful young farmers of the county.

Mr. Adam married Miss Minnie Duis, who likewise was born in this county and who is a daughter of Ralph A. Duis. Of her father personal record is given elsewhere in this volume. Two children, Martha and Walter, have come to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adam. The family are members of the Lutheran church and are among the highly respected people of the community.

HENRY MENKE. — This publication exercises one of its most important functions when it accords tribute to those worthy pioneers who, after having contributed their full quota to the civic and industrial development and progress of Gage county, have passed from the stage of life's mortal endeavors and rest from their labors after having proved stewardship that well merits the commendation of "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Mr. Menke, who long held status as one of

the representative agriculturists and stockgrowers of Gage county, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 4, 1832, and he was a youth at the time of the family immigration to America, his father having previously taken part in the revolutionary movement in Germany. The family home was established in Ohio, where the parents passed the remainder of their lives, as sterling pioneers of the old Buckeye state. Henry Menke was given the advantages of the schools of his native land until the time of the family removal to the United States. About the year 1880, he came to Nebraska and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 33 Clatonia township. He developed this into one of the productive and well improved farms of the county, there passed the residue of his life, and there his widow still maintains her home. He erected good buildings on the farm, set out trees and in time, by his thrift and enterprise, made it one of the model farms of Clatonia township. Here his death occurred September 20, 1915, and his name and memory are revered in the community that so long represented his home. He was a man of strong intellectuality, well fortified in his convictions concerning public policies, was a Republican in politics, and while he had no desire for official preferment he consented to serve for a number of years in the position of road overseer in his township. He was a most earnest and devout member of the German Methodist church, as is also his venerable widow, and he gave zealous and effective service as a local preacher of this denomination. Ordering his life upon the highest plane of integrity and honor, he was essentially one of the world's productive workers during the course of a long and vigorous career.

As a young man Mr. Menke wedded Miss Mary Neimeyer, of Ohio, she having been born in Germany and her death having occurred in Ohio, in 1861. Of the four children of this union the following brief data are available: Frederick is a merchant in the city of Portsmouth, Ohio; Mrs. Lizzie Schmidt resides at Friend, Saline county, Nebraska; Henry, Jr., is deceased, he having been a clergyman of the Presbyterian church; and Emma is the wife of William Werner, their home being near Portsmouth, Ohio.

On the 1st of January, 1865, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Menke to Miss Eliza Knapp, who was born in Germany, May 15, 1843, a daughter of Henry and Caroline (Schocke) Knapp. She was but a small child when her parents came from Germany to America on a sailing vessel, and eleven weeks elapsed ere the family disembarked in the port of New York city, whence removal was made to Ohio, the family home having been established in Lawrence county, that state, when Mrs. Menke was a child of four years and her parents having there passed the remainder of their lives, her father having been for many years employed in connection with the operation of the iron furnaces in that section of the state. Of the ten children of Mr. and Mrs Menke two died in infancy, and of those who attained to adult age the following record is given in conclusion of this brief memoir: Caroline is the wife of Lewis Klopper, of Caltonia township; Matilda is the wife of William Daubendick, of South Bend, Iowa; Catherine is the wife of John H. Wayman, of Clatonia township, and he is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; Eliza is the wife of R. H. Kane, a merchant at Deshler, Thayer county, Nebraska; Rosa is the wife of Lewis Wayman, of Holt county, this state; Edward is a resident of Hebron, Nebraska; Nettie is the wife of Frank Steinmeyer, of Grant township; and Albert remains with his widowed mother, as manager of the old home farm.

GERHARD L. FRERICHS was born on the farm which is now the stage of his independent activities as one of the representative young exponents of agricultural and livestock industry, in Section 22, Logan township, the date of his nativity having been October 8, 1889, and he being a son of L. W. Frerichs, concerning whom individual mention is made on other pages of this volume. The early educational discipline of Mr. Gerhard L. Frerichs was acquired in the district and German

schools, and his judgment has caused him to pay unfaltering allegiance to farm enterprise. In 1910 he married and then became a partner of his father in conducting the operations of the well improved farm estate. In the spring of 1917 his father retired and removed to the city of Beatrice, and the subject of this review has since continued his successful and progressive activities in the control and management of the finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres, upon which his father settled more than thirty-five years ago.

Mr. Frerichs takes loyal interest in community affairs but has had no desire for political activity or public office. He and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church.

In 1910 Mr. Frerichs wedded Miss Gretchen Meints, a member of a well known pioneer family of which specific representation is given elsewhere in this work, she being a daughter of Henry Meints and a granddaughter of Christ Meints. Mr. and Mrs. Frerichs have four children: Marie, Abbie, Lammert and Katrina.

HENRY WIETERS, who is one of the substantial representatives of farm industry in Glenwood township, was born in Germany, September 2, 1857, and when a young man he served in the German army, in the same regiment in which the present Kaiser William was a captain. When twenty-nine years of age he came to the United States, and for several years thereafter he worked in the lumber yard of his brother William, at Lanham, Kansas. Twenty years ago he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on Section 20, Glenwood township, where he has made extensive improvements, including a good house and barns, and here he successfully carries on general farming.

He married Miss Louise Ritter, a native of the province of Hanover, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Wieters are the parents of six children: Henry, who married Miss Hannah Duis, is at the home assisting in the operation of the farm; Sophia is the wife of Pape Duis, a farmer of Washington county, Kansas; Louise is the wife of Fred Sheele, of Lanham, Gage county; and Minnie, Annie and Caroline are at home.

Mr. Wieters and his family are members of the Lutheran church, and in politics he is Republican. He is a good farmer, a good neighbor and a loyal citizen and he is held in high regard by all who know him.

TONY SHALLA was born on the farm, in Glenwood township, which has been the home of his parents since 1879, his natal day having been March 29, 1882. He is a son of Frank Shalla, whose life record is given in other pages of this book. Tony was reared on the farm, attended the public schools and as a boy assisted in the work about the farm. As his years and strength increased he gradually assumed the heavier burdens connected with the farm, giving his father the benefits of his labors until, on reaching man's estate and deciding upon agricultural pursuits as his vocation in life, he was assisted by his father in purchasing the farm which has been the scene of his successful activities for the past ten years. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres, well improved, and gives his attention to general farming.

For a companion and helpmate he chose Miss Matilda Zaribnicky, who was born in Gage county, a daughter of Frank Zaribnicky, a farmer of Paddock township. Mr. and Mrs. Shalla are the parents of five children: Elsie, William, James, Wilma and Martha.

EDWARD BAUMAN is to be considered fortunate in that he is the owner of a well improved landed estate in Holt township, where his attractive homestead place is eligibly situated in Section 9 and where he is giving his attention most successfully to diversified agriculture and to the raising of high-grade Durham cattle. In addition to owning four hundred acres of the valuable land of Gage county he has also a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Cheyenne, Kansas.

Mr. Bauman was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, to which Gage county is

MRS. EDWARD BAUMAN

EDWARD BAUMAN

indebted for a goodly number of representative citizens in past as well as the present generations, and the date of his nativity was August 24, 1862. He is a son of Reiner and Fannie (Buhr) Bauman, of whose five children the eldest is Tillie, wife of Heye P. Parde, of Hanover township, this county; Anna is the wife of Heye Werts and they reside in the state of California; Tena is the wife of Herman Wolken, of Hanover township; the subject of this review is the youngest of the number and the only son; and one daughter died in infancy.

In the year 1864 Reiner Bauman immigrated with his family to America and settled in Adams county, Illinois, his wife having died there about two weeks later. Subsequently Mr. Bauman contracted a second marriage and of the same were born two children, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Bauman continued his activities as a farmer in Illinois, but shortly before his death he purchased land in Hanover township, Gage county, Nebraska: as he had made no payment on the purchase price the land reverted to the former owner upon the death of Mr. Bauman, when he was about seventy-two years of age.

Edward Bauman was reared to adult age in Illinois, and his early educational advantages were those of the district schools. In 1885 he came to Gage county, and here he continued his activities as a farmer on rented land in Hanover township about fifteen years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Section 30, that township, but this property he later sold, after having made numerous improvements on the same. In 1900 he purchased his present fine home farm, to which he removed in 1902, and in accumulating his valuable landed estate and bringing the same to its present condition of thrift and prosperity he has depended entirely upon his own ability and well ordered industry, his financial resources having been very limited when he came to Gage county as a young man of ambition and dauntless determination. Mr. Bauman assisted in the organization of the Farmers' State Bank of Pickrell, and is now president of this substantial financial institution. In politics he designates himself an independent Republican and he attends and supports the German Lutheran church, of which his wife is a zealous member.

On the 11th of March, 1888, Mr. Bauman married Miss Fannie Zimmerman, who was born in Logan township, this county, March 28, 1867, a daughter of Tamme Zimmerman, a sterling pioneer of Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Bauman have two children — Reiner, who is a progressive farmer in Holt township; and Thomas, who remains at the parental home and assists his father in the management and work of the farm.

ALBERT HUBKA. — The late Albert Hubka, a man of strong individuality, fine mentality and sterling character, was a pioneer settler in Nebraska and through his well directed activities in connection with farm enterprise he achieved large and worthy success. At the time of his death, which occurred in Sherman township, Gage county, in 1898, he was the owner of a valuable landed estate of several hundred acres, and as a man of uprightness and constructive energy, as well as a loyal and public-spirited citizen, he is properly accorded a tribute in this publication. His estate was largely represented in valuable land in Sections 1 and 12, Sherman township, and his sons are in their generation well upholding the honors of the family name.

Albert Hubka was born in Bohemia, April 22, 1846, and was a member of a family of twelve children, of whom six attained to years of maturity, two of his brothers likewise having become residents of Nebraska. Mr. Hubka was a son of Joseph and Anna (Blaha) Hubka, who passed their entire lives in Bohemia. Albert remained at the parental home until he was a youth of fourteen years, and he passed the following five years in another section of the German empire, in the meanwhile receiving good educational advantages. About the time of the Franco-Prussian war he came to America and after remaining for a time in Baltimore, Maryland, he came to the west. He passed a short interval in the city of Chicago and then went to Richland county, Wisconsin.

he having been a successful teacher during the period of his residence in Chicago. Finally he came to Nebraska and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Pawnee county. There he continued farm operations about fourteen years, and in 1871 he exchanged his pioneer farm in that county for four hundred and eighty acres in Sherman township, Gage county. He improved this land into one of the fine farm properties of the county and became specially successful as an agriculturist and stock-grower, giving special attention for a number of years to the raising of high-grade horses. He accumulated a substantial fortune, was true and loyal in all of the relations of life and commanded unqualified popular esteem. His political support was given to the Democratic party and while he was frequently importuned to accept local offices he declined all such overtures, save that he gave effective service as director and treasurer of his school district, he having declined to accept the office of township treasurer when urged to become the incumbent thereof.

In 1867 Mr. Hubka wedded Miss Mary Kovanda, who was born in Bohemia, May 2, 1847, a daughter of Albert and Fanny Kovanda, with whom she came to Pawnee county, Nebraska, in 1867. Mrs. Hubka still survives her husband and now maintains her home in the village of Virginia, this county, as one of the venerable and loved pioneer women of this section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Hubka became the parents of eight children, all of whom are living: Frank is a prosperous farmer in Elm township; Joseph S. is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; Annie is the wife of Joseph S. Stanek, of Sherman township; Frances is the wife of John Henzel, of Virginia, this county; James is a farmer in Washington county; Emil is engaged in farm enterprise in Sherman township; Emily is the wife of George Henzel, of Sherman township; and Julia is the wife of Charles Kozak, of Filley township.

Mr. Hubka not only won for himself substantial success but also assisted all of his sons in gaining a secure start on the road to independence and prosperity.

THOMAS W. STANOSHECK, president of the State Bank of Odell, is a native of Iowa, born at Iowa City, November 10, 1859. His parents were Albert and Pauline Stanosheck, who were natives of Poland and who, in 1857, immigrated to America, locating at Iowa City, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Reared in his native city, Thomas Stanosheck attended the public and parochial schools, and in 1884 he and his brother, Frank J., came to the new town of Odell, Nebraska, with a small stock of goods and opened up a general merchandise store. For thirteen years he successfully continued in this line of enterprise, and then, in 1897, he retired and devoted his time to looking after his invested interests, having purchased a large amount of farm lands. In 1908 he became one of the organizers of the State Bank of Odell, and of the same he has been president since 1913. He now gives close attention to his executive duties in connection with this institution and to the supervision of his fine landed estate of eight hundred acres, — comprising well improved farms.

Mr. Stanosheck was united in marriage to Miss Abbie Murphy, a native of New York state, and a sister of J. E. Murphy of Odell, who has furnished a record of the Murphy family. Mr. and Mrs. Stanosheck have become the parents of three children: William F. is married and resides in Odell, where he is cashier of the State Bank; Lillie and Genevieve are at home.

Mr. Stanosheck is interested in various enterprises which have to do with the growth of the town. He is president of the Odell Lumber Company and also of the Farmers' Elevator Company.

The religious views of our subject coincide with the teachings of the Catholic church and in politics is a Democrat. He has never aspired to nor held public office, preferring to give his time and attention to his own affairs, in which he has been very successful. Odell

was but two years old when he arrived and became one of its first merchants, and for thirty-four years he has been an important factor in its business development.

JOSEPH HUBKA has through his own ability and energetic efforts accumulated one of the large and valuable landed estates of Filley township and is one of the successful and representative agriculturists and stock-growers of Gage county, his attractive home place being in Section 33, about one mile distant from the village of Filley.

Mr. Hubka was born in Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, January 25, 1867, and is a son of Michael and Veronika Hubka, who came to the United States in 1883 and settled in Pawnee county, Nebraska, where the father became a successful farmer; after his retirement from active labor he removed to the village of Table Rock, that county, where he passed the remainder of his life and where his widow still resides.

Joseph Hubka gained his youthful education in the schools of his native land and was sixteen years old when he accompanied his parents on their immigration to America. He assisted his father in the reclaiming of the home farm in Pawnee county and also found employment as a farm hand. He could not at the time speak the English language and this proved somewhat of a handicap, his wages for the first year having been only ten dollars a month and the highest wages he at any time received during eight years of employment as a farm worker having been seventeen dollars a month. In the meanwhile he gave virtually all of his earnings to his father and mother. When he was twenty-four years of age his father assisted him in buying eighty acres of land in Pawnee county, and incidentally he assumed an indebtedness of five hundred dollars. On this farm, to which he later added eighty acres, he continued his operations fourteen years, after which he sold the property. On the 22d of February, 1903, he came to Gage county and purchased two hundred and thirty-five acres of land in Filley township, where he has since continued his notably successful activities along the line of diversified agriculture and stock-growing. In 1918 he added to his estate by the purchase of another valuable farm in Filley township, this place comprising three hundred and twenty acres. His home farm in early days was owned by that honored pioneer, the late Elijah Filley, in whose honor the township and village of Filley were named. Mr. Hubka is a man whose word is as good as any bond that was ever issued, and he commands the unqualified respect of all who know him. His career has been marked by earnest and diligent application and he has well earned the gracious rewards of independence and prosperity. In politics he is independent of strict partisan lines and he is always ready to do his part in supporting movements and measures tending to conserve the general well-being of the community.

In Pawnee county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hubka to Miss Anna Richly, who likewise is a native of Bohemia, and concerning their children the following brief record is given: Lillie is the wife of Amos Fritz, of Pawnee county; Frank conducts an automobile garage in the village of Filley; Emma is a student (1918) in the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru; and Clement, James and Joseph remain at the parental home.

JAMES RATHBUN. — For thirty-six years the subject of this review has been a resident of Glenwood township, Gage county and in the work of development, from pioneer times to the present day, Mr. Rathbun has contributed his full share.

James Rathbun was born in Washington county, Ohio, November 28, 1828, and is descended from a family founded in New England may generations ago. The father of our subject was Ebenezer Rathbun, who was born in Vermont, where he was reared to manhood. As a young man he went to Washington county, Ohio, where he married. In 1840 he located in La Salle county, Illinois, and after a few years there and in Peoria county he made permanent location in Henry county, where he became a successful farmer and land

owner. He was amongst the first white settlers of that county and there spent the remainder of his life, passing away in 1874. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Martha Hall. She was a native of Ireland and when a girl was brought to America by her parents, who settled in Ohio. She died in Henry county, Illinois, in 1878.

James Rathbun was a lad of twelve summers when the home was established in Illinois, where he grew to manhood and became a farmer. He bought and improved a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Henry county, where he resided until 1882, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and in Section 1, Glenwood township purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, the same having been partly improved. As time passed he brought the land to a high state of cultivation and made good improvements. He has made his home on this place continuously for thirty-six years. That he has been successful is indicated in the fact that to-day he owns three hundred and twenty acres in Glenwood and Paddock townships and formerly owned two hundred and forty acres in Kansas: this property he has sold to three of his sons, who now make their homes on the land.

February 25, 1858, was solemnized the marriage of James Rathbun and Mary Wolfe, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, June 24, 1836, a daughter of Peter and Jane (Biggs) Wolfe, natives of Knox county, Ohio, and early settlers in Henry county, Illinois, where they passed away. Mrs. Rathbun was called to the home beyond in 1895, and was the mother of the following named children: Frank, George and Charles are married and reside on farms near Hollenburg, Kansas; Lewis is a farmer residing in Odell; John is a farmer of Paddock township; Alice, is the wife of A. I. Layton, operating the home farm; Lizzie is the wife of Charles Mort, of Nebraska City; and Carrie is the wife of Ira Hageman, of Beatrice.

Mr. Rathbun has reached the venerable age of ninety years, has lived to see his sons and daughters established in life and can look on the past without regret and to the future without fear. He is a Democrat in politics.

FRED EGGERT came to Gage county soon after his immigration from Germany to America, and was a vigorous and ambitiouus youth of seventeen years when he thus set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. It was in the year 1882 that he arrived in America and made his appearance in Gage county. He was dependent entirely upon his own exertions in making advancement toward the goal of independence and was burdened by an indebtedness of one hundred and fifteen dollars at the time of his arrival in this county. For several years thereafter he was employed at farm work, at wages varying from six to ten dollars a month, but his frugality and careful saving of his earnings soon permitted him to free himself from debt and justify him in beginning independent operations as a farmer on rented land. He finally purchased a farm in Saline county, where he continued his operations eight years. In 1912 he purchased his present homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the same constituting the southwest quarter of Section 34, Logan township, and here he has made many improvements of the best order, including the erection of a large barn and the remodeling and enlarging of the house. Without pretentiousness or flourish of any kind Mr. Eggert has devoted himself earnestly to productive enterprise as a farmer and has won worthy success, the while he has commanded the fullest measure of popular esteem. His political activities are confined to the casting of his ballot in support of the cause of the Republican party and of men and measures meeting his approval as a loyal citizen. Both he and his wife are consistent communicants of the Lutheran church.

In this county was recorded the marriage of Mr. Eggert to Miss Lizzie Daubendick, who had been his boyhood schoolmate in Germany, she having been born and reared in the same community as was he, in Westphalia, and having been a young woman when she accompanied her parents to America, the family home having been established in Clatonia township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Eggert have five children: Mary is the wife of Hans Schmohr, a prosperous farmer of this county;

Henry is successfully engaged in farm enterprise in Logan township; Annie is the wife of John King, of Sanborn, Iowa; and Fred, Jr. and Carl, who are twins, are the younger members of the parental home circle.

Adverting to the early period of the life history of Mr. Eggert, it may be noted that he was born in the province of Westphalia, Germany, on the 9th of May, 1864, and that he was but three years old at the time of his mother's death, he having no remembrance of ever having seen his father, as he was reared in the home of friends of the family. He was given the advantages of the schools of his native place and there continued his residence until ambition spurred him to come to the United States, where he felt assured of better opportunities for the winning of prosperity through his own efforts. He has made the passing years count in productive industry and is one of the substantial farmers of Logan township.

FRANK BURES, who passed away, in Paddock township, May 1, 1915, was one of Gage county's successful farmers and substantial citizens. A native of Iowa, he was born in Jones county, October 3, 1868, and was a son of Frank and Anna Bures, of whom mention is made in a sketch written for Joseph Bures, of Glenwood township. Reared to the life of the farm, in Iowa and in Gage county, Nebraska, Frank Bures, as a young man, learned the trade of blacksmith, at which he worked for a few years in Odell. He then purchased a farm in Section 7, Paddock township, and this he brought to a high state of cultivation, with due attendant success marking his varied farm activities.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Bures chose Miss Anna Lisec, a native of Saline county, Nebraska, where she was born March 10, 1875. She is a sister of Frank Lisec, of Sicily township. Mr. and Mrs. Bures became the parents of four children: Albert died in infancy; and Frank, Mary and James are with their mother on the farm, the sons carrying on the work which has fallen upon their shoulders since the death of their father. Frank is serving, in 1918, his second year as assessor of Paddock township, his father having served as assessor of this township for three years.

The late Frank Bures was a good farmer, a loyal citizen, a loving husband and father, and in his passing the community was bereft of a man whom it could ill afford to lose.

WILLIAM PIEPER, who rents from his father a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty-one acres in Section 4, Holt township, is another of the native sons of Gage county who is here exemplifying the best traditions and also modern policies in progressive agriculture and stock-raising. He was born in Grant township, this county, July 8, 1892, and is the eldest of the seven children born to Henry and Louisa (Bushe) Pieper; Ernest, the second son, has become a member of the national army being trained for participation in the appalling European war, and at the time of this writing he is stationed in a training camp in New Mexico, in the winter of 1917-1918; Minnie, Sophia and Helen remain at the paternal home; Emma is being reared in the home of her uncle, Frederick Rishe, in the city of Lincoln, this state; and Hilda is in the home of her uncle Frederick Pieper, in Grant township.

Henry Pieper, father of the subject of this review, was born in Germany, about 1850, and was a lad of about fifteen years when he came with kinsfolk to the United States and settled in Gage county. Thereafter he was employed about nine years as a farm hand, and in the meanwhile he was careful in saving his earnings, his ambition being to establish himself eventually as an independent farmer. Finally he purchased eighty acres of land in Section 2, Grant township, and of the splendid success that has since attended his energetic and well ordered endeavors no further voucher need be given that the statement that he is now the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred and ten acres — one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township; the one hundred and sixty-one acres farmed by his son William, of this review, in Holt township;

and eighty acres in Scotts Bluff county. He still resides on his fine homestead farm in Grant township, his devoted wife having died in 1908, as the sequel of an operation for appendicitis. She was born in Germany and was thirty-seven years of age at the time of her death. She was a devoted member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, in which her husband likewise holds membership.

William Pieper was reared on the home farm and gained his youthful education in the district schools of Grant township. He initiated his independent career as a farmer in 1915, when he rented from his father his present farm, and he is proving himself one of the aggressive and successful agriculturists and stock-growers of the younger generation in his native county. In the season of 1917 he obtained from seventy-one acres a yield of corn that averaged thirty bushels to the acre, and in the live-stock department of his farm enterprise he is giving special attention to the raising of Duroc-Jersey swine. Mr. Pieper is an industrious and ambitious young man who is always ready to do his share in the furthering of movements and enterprises for the general good of the community, his political support being given to the Republican party and both he and his wife holding membership in the Evangelical Lutheran church.

October 4, 1917, recorded the marriage of Mr. Pieper to Miss Dora Tiemann, who is the popular mistress of their pleasant home, which, under her regime, is truly worthy of the name of home. Mrs. Pieper was born in Grant township, this county, near Clatonia, and is a daughter of the late Henry Tiemann, the mother, whose maiden name was Anna Darnauer, remaining on the old homestead farm with her two sons, Mrs. Pieper having been the fourth in a family of five children.

JOHN BARRATT. — Not only historic interest but much of romance attaches to the career of this venerable and honored pioneer, who became a resident of Gage county nearly ten years prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood and who is still the owner of a fine landed estate in the county, the same comprising two hundred and seventy acres, in Grant and Blakely townships, his original homestead entry, in the former township, having been the twenty-ninth recorded within the limits of that now opulent division of the county. In the gracious twilight of a long and useful life he is living retired in the village of Dewitt, Saline county — about two miles distant from his old Gage county homestead.

John Barratt was born in Somersetshire, England, on the 5th of December, 1837, and is the younger in a family of two children, his brother, William, having continued to reside in England until his death, as did also the parents, John and Uriscilla A. (Barratt) Barratt, both likewise natives of Somersetshire, where the father followed the trade of blacksmith in connection with farm enterprise. The parents were devout communicants of the Church of England and the son John has continued to hold earnestly to the ancestral faith, he being a zealous communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church, as was also his wife.

He to whom this review is dedicated was reared on the old home farm in England and was given the advantages of the parish schools. When eighteen years of age, in 1856, he severed the home ties and set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. Making the voyage across the Atlantic on a sailing vessel of the type common to that period, he landed in the port of New York city in May of the year mentioned. Thence he proceeded to Ohio, where he remained a few months, and he then made his way to Wisconsin. There he remained until 1858, when he set out for the western frontier. He walked the greater part of the distance from Wisconsin to Nebraska Territory, and when he arrived in Gage county, in August, 1858, his capitalistic resources were represented in the sum of little more than one hundred dollars. He came to Gage county in company with his cousin, George Grant, and the latter's family, this cousin having been one of the first settlers on Turkey creek, and Grant township having been named in his honor. He was one of the most influential pioneers of that section of

MR. AND MRS. JOHN BARRATT

the county, as data appearing in the history of the county clearly indicate.

While he was thus facing the responsibilities and labors of a pioneer Mr. Barratt manifested his unqualified loyalty to the land of his adoption after the Civil war had been precipitated upon the nation. On the 30th of October, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, Second Nebraska Cavalry, and with this command he took part in the battle of Whitestone Hill, but his principal service was in connection with minor engagements and skirmishes on the frontier. In December, 1863, he received his honorable discharge, and upon his return to Gage county he built a log cabin on the homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres to which he had previously made entry. He provided for his needs by working as a farm hand and in the meanwhile gave as much attention as possible to the reclaiming of his own land. He became a member of the territorial militia and when, on the 7th of August, 1864, the governor of the territory called out troops to repel a formidable Indian outbreak Mr. Barratt was elected orderly sergeant of Company C, with which he served six months — principally in guarding the road for the passage of the United States mail. He escaped injury during this service, as had he previously while with the cavalry command, and his company did not come into active conflict with the marauding Indians.

Energetically continuing the improvement of his farm, Mr. Barratt met with cumulative success in the passing years and became specially prominent as a stock-grower in Grant township, where he gave particular attention to the raising of Poland-China swine. He did well his part in furthering the civic and industrial development of Gage county, made judicious investments in additional land and finally developed one of the well improved and valuable farm properties of the county — the landed estate which he still retains in his possession, besides being the owner of his residence and other property in the village of Dewitt, where he established his home on his retirement from the farm, in 1903. He was active and influential in communal affairs, was one of the organizers of the district school in the vicinity of his home farm and served as a director of the same from 1870 until his removal to Dewitt, more than thirty years later. He has continuously given his earnest allegiance to the Republican party and is one of the appreciated and honored members of the old pioneer association of Lincoln and of the post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Dewitt.

Mr. Barratt's reminiscences concerning conditions and incidents of the early pioneer days are most graphic and interesting, and in this connection the following record is well worthy of perpetuation in this connection. On the 7th of August, 1867, he and three other men were quartered in a house on the Oak Grove ranch, in Nuckolls county, together with three women and one or more children, when the place was approached by a party of thirty-five Indians who asserted that they were hunting for a band of Pawnee Indians. M. C. Kelley and J. H. Butler, the other two men, went out for a parley with the Indians, by whom they were shot dead. As one of the four guards for the women and children, Mr. Barratt piled bags of flour against the doors and succeeded in keeping the bloodthirsty Indians at bay until they were driven off on the approach of the returning wagon train from Denver, Colorado, a few hours after the massacre of the two men.

Mr. Barratt recalls that in August, 1866, this section of the state was visited by a veritable scourge of grasshoppers, which laid havoc to all vegetation and left not a blade of corn in the fields. They next attacked the onion beds and after eating the tops Mr. Barratt states that they would hold each other down in order that they might feast on the onion roots. In May, 1872, while Mr. Barratt was visiting his old home in England, Gage county was visited by a hail storm of such remarkable severity that even fish in the streams were killed. He has shot prairie chickens on the site of the present thriving and beautiful city of Beatrice and there are few, if any, of the incidents, trials, and hard-

ships of the pioneer days with which he is not familiar through personal experience.

On March 17, 1867, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Barratt to Miss Annie E. Wheeler, who was born in London, England, November 1, 1840, a daughter of Charles and Annie (Pierce) Wheeler, and who came to Nebraska in 1866, in company with an uncle and aunt and one of her brothers and a cousin, she having been in the home of her uncle, in Saline county, at the time of her marriage. Mrs. Barratt proved a most faithful and devoted wife and mother and was loved by all who came within the sphere of her gentle and gracious influence, she having been summoned to the life eternal December 31, 1914. In the concluding paragraph of this article is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Barratt.

William, who is a prosperous farmer in Smith county, Kansas, married Miss Myrtle Quinn, a native of Cass county, Nebraska, and they have four children — Mabel F., Audrey, Ella Beatrice, and Mildred Pauline. Ella is the wife of Edgar Coke, of Dewitt, and with them resides her venerable father. Robert resides upon and has the active management of his father's old homestead farm in Gage county: he wedded Miss Nettie Wolf and they have two children — John F. and Lloyd E. Nellie died in infancy. George, who is a representative farmer of Blakely township, married Miss Millie Moore, and they have three children — Georgia M., Birdie L., and Winifred D. Harry, the youngest of the children of the honored subject of this review, died at the age of five years.

JOHN F. BURBANK came with his parents to Nebraska in the spring of 1883, and has here achieved marked success in connection with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing. He was twenty-three years of age when he came to this state and he continued for some time to be associated with farming in Sarpy county, where he was continued in independent farm enterprise until 1900. He then came to Gage county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Section 29, Filley township, this farm having been developed and improved by that sterling pioneer, the late John Wesley Wright, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work. On this farm Mr. Burbank continued his successful enterprise as an agriculturist and stock-grower until the spring of 1918, when he sold the property to advantage, and he now resides in the village of Filley. He is a Republican in his political proclivities and as a citizen has always stood exponent of loyalty and progressiveness.

Mr. Burbank was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on the 2d of November, 1860, and concerning his father, Benjamin F. Burbank and the family history in general, adequate data appear on other pages, in the sketch dedicated to his brother C. A. Burbank. He was reared on the home farm in Illinois and his early educational advantages were those afforded in the public schools. He has never faltered in his allegiance to agricultural industry and through the medium of the same has won success worthy of the name. In Stark county, Illinois, Mr. Burbank wedded Miss Rosa Schanck, who was born in that county, and she passed to the life eternal in 1907, being survived by one daughter, Loisa, who is the wife of J. C. Perky, of Filley. In 1911 Mr. Burbank contracted a second marriage, when Miss Maude Eaton became his wife. Mrs. Burbank was born in the state of Missouri.

FRANK R. SHALLA. — Among the native sons of Gage county who have chosen to remain within its borders and who are meeting with success, Frank R. Shalla merits definite recognition. He is a son of Frank Shalla, a pioneer of Gage county, whose record appears elsewhere in these pages. Born in a primitive pioneer home in Section 36, Glenwood township, on April 14, 1880, Frank R. Shalla spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farm lads, his time being divided between his studies in the district school and such farm tasks as his young strength permitted. He was one of a family of eight boys and learned the necessity and value of industry. When

twenty-one years of age he began working by the month for others, and when he was twenty-five years old his father assisted him in the purchase of eighty acres of land in Section 29, Paddock township, where he bought an adjoining eighty acres. The place contained some improvements, but the buildings were in a run-down condition. For thirteen years he has been building upon and otherwise improving the place, and it is to-day one of the valuable farms of the township. As his resources increased Mr. Shalla made addition to his land holdings by the purchase of eighty acres in Section 32.

Mr. Shalla completed arrangements for a home by his marriage to Miss Clara Pribyl, who likewise was born in Gage county, and who is a daughter of Tony Pribyl, a pioneer of Paddock township and now a resident of Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Shalla are the parents of five children, — Ella, Sylvia, Edward, Anna and Vera. Mr. and Mrs. Shalla are members of no church, although reared in the Catholic faith. Mr. Shalla expresses his ideas of religion when he says he believes in truth, friendship and love, — and membership in no earthy tabernacle could assure happiness in this world or any world to come more than obedience to the doctrine implied by those three words.

Mr. Shalla is independent in politics. He has served as a member of the school board, and as treasurer of the school district, in both of which positions he rendered efficient service.

FRED RIGGERT. — One of the finest of farm properties in Paddock township is the home of the subject of this record, who was born in Marshall county, Kansas March 5, 1881. His parents, August and Minnie (Germer) Riggert, both natives of Hanover, Germany, came to America when they were young people, and were married in Marshall county, Kansas, where August Riggert took up a homestead and became one of the pioneer farmers of that county. He was a successful man in his business ventures, devoting the active years of his life to agricultural pursuits, and is now living retired on his farm, having become one of the extensive land owners of his county. His wife has passed away, and they were the parents of ten children: Anna is the wife of Fred Klaus, of Paddock township; Fred, was next in order of birth; Sophia is the wife of Ernest Adam of Glenwood township; Mrs. Fred Gleue and Mrs. Adolph Stohs reside in Marshall county, Kansas; Christ remains on the home farm; Mrs. Freda Stohs lives in Kansas; and Miss Clara is at the paternal home. Two children died when young.

Fred Riggert was reared on his father's farm in Marshall county, Kansas, acquired his education in the public schools, and under the instruction of his father he learned those lessons of industry and thrift which have been of great value in after years.

When twenty-two years of age he started his independent career as a farmer. For the first seven years he rented land, and in 1910 he purchased his present farm, upon which he has erected as fine a set of farm buildings as can be found anywhere. An atmosphere of thrift and prosperity pervades the place and easily convinces the observer of the progressive and practical methods of its owner. Aside from the raising of cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, Mr. Riggert deals in stock of a good grade, both branches of his business yielding him a substantial income.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Riggert chose Miss Mary Adam, of Glenwood township, a daughter of Ernst and Elizabeth (Daniel) Adam, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. In January 1915, Mr. Riggert was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who was the mother of six children, — Elsie, Edwin, Martha, Alfred, Clara and Paul. For his second wife Mr. Riggert wedded Miss Lena Adam, a sister of his first wife, and they are the parents of one child, Lillian.

Mr. and Mrs. Riggert are members of the Lutheran church, the faith of which was held by their parents. Mr. Riggert casts his vote in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and is serving as director of his

school district. He is one of the substantial citizens of his community and any worthy cause for the social, moral or material benefit of Gage county has his hearty support.

HENRY J. SIEMS. — One of the most original and attractive rural homes in Gage county is the beautiful bungalow which adorns the fine farm of Mr. Siems, in Section 22, Grant township. This artistic structure was designed and erected by Mr. Siems, who has had much experience as a mechanic and as contractor and builder, and he has also made other improvements that mark his farm as one of the most attractive in the county. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of the productive land of Grant township and the same represents his heritage from the estate of his father, who was one of the sterling pioneers of Gage county.

Henry J. Siems was born at Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois, on the 2d of August, 1873, and thus was about two years of age when his parents came to Nebraska, in the spring of 1876. He is a son of Claus and Lena (Weltzein) Siems, both natives of Germany, the former having been born in the province of Hanover, February 11, 1841, and the latter in Mecklenburg, August 18, 1849; their marriage was solemnized at Lincoln, Illinois, Mrs. Seims having been a child of five years when she came with her widowed mother to the United States and the home having been established in Wisconsin, whence removal was later made to Illinois.

Claus Siems was reared and educated in his native land, where also he served an apprenticeship to the trade of cabinetmaker. He became an expert artisan and was a vigorous and self-reliant young man when he came to America and established his residence at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. There he was employed in a sash and door factory for three years and for ten years thereafter he was employed in a furniture establishment at Lincoln, Illinois. In 1876, as before noted, he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, and incidental to leasing a tract of land in Grant township he gained practical experience in farm enterprise. In 1881 he began operations on land which he purchased in the same township, and as a pioneer he developed one of the fine farm properties of the county. He eventually accumulated an estate of four hundred and eighty acres, of which the present homestead of his son Henry J. is an integral part. His mechanical skill enabled him to effect readily a better order of improvements on his farm, in the matter of buildings and appurtenances, and he was known as a citizen of energy and progressiveness, of strong mind and of utmost integrity in all of the relations of life. He was a loyal Democrat in his political adherency and the religious faith of the entire family has been that of the Lutheran church. After the death of his first wife he contracted a second marriage, but of this union no children were born. Of the first marriage were born five sons and two daughters, and of the number the subject of this review is the eldest. Louise (Siems) Eckel died February 8, 1911, at the age of twenty-eight years. Louis and Anna Siems are the other living children.

Henry J. Siems was reared under the environment and influences of the pioneer farm, and in the meanwhile he made good use of the advantages afforded in the district schools of Grant township. He virtually inherited much of the mechanical talent and proclivities of his father and was but fifteen years of age when he began effective work at the carpenter's trade. Thereafter he continued to devote the major part of his time and attention to carpenter work in this county until the early '90s, when he went to Bern, Nemaha county, Kansas, and established himself in business as a contractor and builder. There he remained ten years, within which period he erected a large number of the business and residence buildings that still mark that progressive village. It may incidentally be noted also that he was the contractor who erected the edifice of the Catholic church at Dawson, Richardson county, Nebraska. In 1905 Mr. Siems removed to Seneca, Kansas, where he operated a well equipped planing mill until 1909, when he disposed of his interests at that place

and went to the city of Denver, Colorado. There he continued as a successful contractor in the erection of high-grade houses until 1913, when, after the death of his father, which occurred November 22, 1911, he returned to Gage county and took possession of the farm which he had inherited. Here he has since continued his successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower, but he has by no means lost interest in practical mechanics. In 1916 he designed and erected the beautiful and modern bungalow that now constitutes the family home, and this building is of brick and concrete construction, in which connection it is interesting to record that Mr. Siems manufactured the brick and cement blocks used for the purpose, as well as the mechanism demanded in their production. He has further improved the place by erecting a model poultry house of cement and a machine shop of concrete blocks. He has invented a sanitary school-house seat of entire steel construction, and another product of his inventive genius is a brick-cleaning machine that is now in use in the Argo smelters at Denver, Colorado. His most important invention, however, was the cast stone-block system and mechanism for the moulding of concrete blocks, the same being versatile and accurate, as it will produce concrete blocks or fence posts of any desired size, as well as window sills and tank staves. For the manufacturing of concrete products by his special system Mr. Siems maintains his own well equipped plant on his farm, and he is making plans to manufacture on a large scale and to ship his products to distant points, as well as meeting the requirements of a more localized trade. On his farm is a valuable deposit of fine sand and gravel for use in connection with architectural purposes and from the same he sells about 400 wagon loads annually, and the output is increased every year. Mr. Siems has been at all times energetic and ambitious, and this was significantly shown in his youth by his attending the Beatrice Business College for one term, though in his studies he was handicapped by having previously received only the discipline of the district schools, besides having found it incumbent upon him to apply himself vigorously to work on the home farm. His early farm experience, however, comes into practical use at the present time, as he is not only a skilled mechanic of much inventive ability but is also a well fortified and practical farmer. He is affiliated with the Modern Brotherhood of America in the city of Denver, Colorado.

February 10, 1896, recorded the marriage of Mr. Siems to Miss Anna Poppe, who was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, May 20, 1877, and who was reared on the pioneer farm of her parents, Frederick and Amalia (Wiesedeppe) Poppe, who are natives of Germany and who are now residing in the village of Bern, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Siems have three children, all of whom remain at the parental home and contribute to its prevading atmosphere of good cheer and generous hospitality, their names being here entered in respective order of their birth: Herman, Wilma and George.

WILLIAM H. SHALLA is one of the successful young farmers of Glenwood township. He was born on his father's homestead in this township, August 25, 1888, a son of Frank Shalla, whose life record is given elsewhere in this volume.

William H. Shalla was reared on the farm, assisted in its cultivation, and five years ago he married and his father helped him purchase the one hundred and sixty acre farm upon which he is now residing.

He married Miss Agnes Juricek, a native of Saline county, and a daughter of Frank Juricek, who is retired and living in Crete, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Shalla have one son, Harry W.

ERNST ADAM. — The subject of this record is the oldest of a family of seven children born to Ernst and Elizabeth (Daniel) Adam. The father was born in Schlazian, Germany, February 18, 1845, and when a young man of twenty-five came to the United States and found employment at farm labor, first in Iowa and later in Nebraska. He carefully saved his earnings and in the early '80s purchased

land in Glenwood township, Gage county. He became one of the successful farmers and extensive land owners of the county, his possessions at the time of his death being more than five hundred acres. His death occurred on the farm, December 26, 1914. His wife also was a native of Germany, where she was born in 1859, and her death occurred on the farm in Glenwood township, in 1891, both having been earnest members of the Lutheran church. Following is a brief record concerning their children: Ernst, Herman and August are farmers in Glenwood township, on land left them by their father; Lena, is the wife of Fred Riggert, of Paddock township, his first wife having been Mrs. Riggerts sister Mary, who died three years ago; one child of the family died in infancy; and a son, Henry, died at the age of six years.

Ernst Adam, the oldest of the children above mentioned, was born on the farm in Glenwood township, November 3, 1883, was educated in the public schools and inherited one hundred and sixty acres of land from his father. On this place he has erected a splendid set of buildings and here he carries on general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Adam married Miss Sophia Riggert, who was born in Washington county, Kansas, a daughter of August Riggert. Further mention of the family is made in the sketch of Fred Riggert, on another page. Mr. and Mrs. Adam have six children: Alvin, Herbert, Raymond Helen, Hilda and an infant born April 5, 1918. The family attend the Lutheran church.

C. A. BURBANK, who is numbered among the progressive farmers of Filley township, was born in Marshall county, Illinois, January 23, 1865, and is a son of Benjamin Franklin Burbank, who was born in Oxford county, Maine, September 22, 1832, a son of Israel and Rhoda (Hatch) Burbank, who likewise were natives of the old Pine Tree state, where they passed their entire lives and where they reared their children on a little farm of twelve and one-half acres, in the midst of the pine forests. Benjamin F. Burbank had limited educational opportunities in his youth but early learned the lessons of practical and productive industry. In 1855 he went to Peoria county, Illinois, where he engaged in farm enterprise. In 1861 he removed to Marshall county, that state, where he continued his activities as a farmer for many years. He owned land not only in that county but also in Stark county, property which he sold in 1883, when he came to Nebraska and purchased an entire section of land in Sarpy county. He gave his supervision to the development of this land and he now, at the venerable age of eighty-five years (1918) makes his home with his sons in Gage county. He represents the sterling character so typical of the sons of New England and is a man who has ever commanded the confidence and high esteem of his fellow men. His political support is given to the Republican party and while he has not become actively affiliated with any church organization he has been a close student of the Bible and has deep reverence for the spiritual verities of the Christian faith and practice. As a young man he married Miss Caroline Hovenden, who was born in England and who was a girl when she came with her widowed mother to America, the family home being established in Peoria county, Illinois. Mrs. Burbank was about sixty-seven years of age at the time of her death, in 1903, and she is survived by six children: John F. and C. A. are substantial farmers of Gage county; A. G. is engaged in the banking business at Cordova, Seward county; Eva is the wife of Oscar Harlan, of Lincoln, this state; Carrie is the wife of Charles Owen, of South Omaha; and William H. is a farmer in Sherman township, Gage county.

C. A. Burbank gained his early education in the public schools of Illinois and at the age of twenty-two years he left the home farm of his father, in Sarpy county, Nebraska, to engage in farm enterprise in an independent way. He purchased in that county eighty acres of land, but ten days later he sold the same at a profit of one thousand dollars. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the same county, and there he

continued his operations until 1900, when he came to Gage county and purchased his present attractive homestead farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 21, Filley township. The inferior buildings on the farm he has since replaced with thoroughly modern structures, including a commodious house, of modern design and facilities, an excellent barn and other substantial farm buildings. The fine orchard which he planted on this farm is now giving substantial fruitage each successive season, and other improvements likewise denote his enterprise and progressiveness as an exponent of modern farm enterprise. He takes loyal interest in community affairs and is ready to do his part in the furtherance of enterprises and measures advanced for the general good. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

In the year 1888 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Burbank to Miss Margaret L. Turley, who was born in Morgan county, Illinois, and who was left an orphan in her early childhood, she having been a resident of Nebraska for half a century. Mr. and Mrs. Burbank have three sons, all of whom are associated in the work and management of the home farm — Herbert Benjamin, Harry Harlan, and Charles Albion.

ALEX ARMSTRONG. — The subject of this memoir was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, June 3, 1857, a son of Andrew and Elizabeth Armstrong, who likewise were natives of the Emerald Isle, where they spent their entire lives. Of their children three sons and a daughter came to the United States. John and Alexander died in Gage county, Nebraska; Kate became the wife of William Hommersham and resides in Missouri; Charles is a prosperous farmer of Paddock township, and is individually mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

Alex Armstrong was a lad of eighteen years when he came to the United States and became a farmer in Linn county, Iowa. In 1880 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased an improved farm of eighty acres in Paddock township. He was a successful farmer, and as his resources increased he added to his original purchase, owning at the time of his death two hundred acres, finely improved and constituting one of the valuable farms of the township. He finally retired from active work on the farm and established his home in the village of Odell, where his death occurred August 8, 1910.

At Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on the 8th of August, 1890, Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Whelan, who was born in Ireland, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Whelan, both natives of Ireland. The father was an officer in the British army and fought in the conflict in Afghanistan. On the return of the army to England he was among the few who were ushered into the presence of Queen Victoria, who presented him with a gold medal, as a reward for bravery displayed on the field of battle. He died in his native land, and his wife passed away at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong became the parents of three children: Minnie, born July 29, 1891, became the wife of Erskine Colgrove, and she passed away December 21, 1910; Agnes, born December 4, 1893, and John, born August 22, 1898, still remain with their mother. John married Miss Gertrude Barnadt. After the death of her husband Mrs. Armstrong returned to the farm, which, with the help of her children, she has since conducted. Both she and her son display exceptional business ability in connection with agricultural pursuits. The husband and father was reared in the faith of the Wesleyan Methodist church. He was a loyal citizen, a loving husband and father, and a substantial citizen whose death marked a loss to the community as well as to his own family.

THOMAS D. MOSBY. — Among the early settlers of Gage county mention should be made of Thomas Davis Mosby, owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in Sections 26 and 35, Adams township. Mr. Mosby was born in Spencer county, Indiana, January 6, 1852, and is a son of L. L. and Mary L. (Adams) Mosby. His father was born in

ALEX. ARMSTRONG

Kentucky, in 1820, and as a young man moved to Indiana, where he followed farming until his death, which occurred in 1856. The mother of our subject was born in Kentucky, and her death occurred in Adams, Nebraska, December 2, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Mosby were the parents of three children: Thomas Davis, the subject of this review; Charles J., owner and manager of the Adams Hotel at Adams, this county; and G. L., a carpenter at Adams.

Thomas Davis Mosby was educated in the public schools in Indiana, and in that state he followed farming until 1871. He then removed to Missouri, where he continued farm enterprise until 1876, and in that year he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and settled in Section 26, Adams township, where he has lived continuously for more than forty-one years. On August 15, 1877, Mr. Mosby was united in marriage to Miss Naomi Adams, daughter of John O. and Letitia (Harris) Adams, and to this union seven children were born. Lulu is the wife of Arthur Campbell, of Adams; Julia Frances is the wife of Claud Campbell, of Virginia, this county; Samuel A. married Clarinda Whittaker and they reside at Adams; Mattie Alice is the wife of Frank Van Fossen, of Adams; Thomas O. died December 5, 1883; Georgia A. is at home; and Edna Isabelle died March 15, 1917.

John O. Adams, father of Mrs. Mosby was the first permanent settler in Gage county and a record of him is given elsewhere in this volume.

Thomas D. Mosby is a Republican in politics and has served on the school board of his district for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Mosby are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they are both faithful workers, and they are numbered among the best people of the community in which they have so long maintained their home and in which they are held in very high esteem by all who know them.

JAMES C. GALLOWAY was not only one of the early and honored pioneer settlers of Gage county, but he also made large and valuable contribution to the social and industrial development and progress of this now favored section of the state. He was a member of a family founded in America many generations ago, and the same was true of his wife, both families having had much to do with pioneer activities as the course of empire made its way to the western portions of our national domain. The subject of this memoir was one of the representative pioneer citizens of Adams township, Gage county, where he established his home nearly half a century ago and where he continued to reside until the close of his long and useful life, his death having occurred September 9, 1892.

Mr. Galloway was born near Jonesboro, Tennessee, on the 17th of July, 1836, and as a youth he accompanied his parents on their immigration to Macoupin county, Illinois, where his father engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Galloway had the true pioneer instinct, as shown by the fact that in 1861 he set forth with a wagon and ox team to make an exploring expedition to the western lands being opened to settlement. He continued his journey westward until he arrived in California, and such were the conditions at the time that he encountered many perils from attack by marauding Indians, as well as danger from depredations of wild beasts. He walked virtually the entire distance on the long overland journey, and after making careful observations he finally returned to Illinois. There, in 1872, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Scott, and in 1874 the young couple, with their infant son, set forth with a team and covered wagon for Gage county, Nebraska. Here Mr. Galloway purchased, at the rate of fifteen dollars an acre, a tract of land in Section 26, Adams township, this being the old homestead on which his widow and two of their sons still reside. Mr. Galloway bent his energies to the improving of his farm and the passing years brought to him a generous measure of prosperity. From the wild prairie he eventually developed a fine landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, and his widow still retains the ownership of this valuable property. On the old homestead, as previously intimated, Mr. Galloway remained until his death. He

was enterprising and progressive in his farm enterprise and left to his sons the gracious heritage of a good name and the record of a useful and successful life. Mr. Galloway was always ready to give his support to measures tending to advance the civic and material welfare of the community and he so ordered his life as to retain the unqualified confidence and good will of his fellow men. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party and he was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. The land which he purchased for fifteen dollars an acre is to-day valued at one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

As previously noted, the marriage of Mr. Galloway to Miss Elizabeth Scott was solemnized in 1872. Mrs. Galloway, now venerable in years, is a representative of a family that has been one of not a little distinction and influence in connection with pioneer history in various states of the west and middle west. Members of the Scott family were early settlers in Illinois, and in the early part of the nineteenth century the father of Mrs. Galloway, in company with his brother John, drove an ox team and cart from Kentucky to Ohio and thence into Illinois. The forests of Ohio were dense and only a few Indian trails marked the route to settlements and Indian trading stations. The Scott brothers were numbered among the earliest settlers of what is now Scott county, Illinois, and the county was named in honor of John Scott, the elder of the two brothers. James C. Scott, father of Mrs. Galloway, became a substantial farmer in Scott county, Illinois, and there Mrs. Galloway was born, on the 6th of July, 1845. Her father was a native of Kentucky and her mother, whose maiden name was Mary Cowhick, was born in Ohio. They continued their residence in Scott county, Illinois, until the close of their lives. Mrs. Galloway remains on the old homestead that is endeared to her by the gracious memories and associations of the past, and she is still able to direct many of the domestic economies of the household. She is one of the revered pioneer women of Adams township, where she bore with her husband the trials and hardships of the pioneer days. This honored pioneer couple became the parents of four sons: Lee and James remain with their widowed mother on the old homestead and have the active supervision of the well ordered farm; Scott died when about six years of age; and Charles M. resides in the village of Adams, this county.

James E. Galloway was born and reared on the fine farm which is now his home and in the management of which he is well upholding the prestige of the name which he bears. He was born May 9, 1876, and received his early education in the public schools of his native township. After the death of his father he and his brothers assumed the active management of the farm, and he and his brother, Charles M., still have the same in charge, the while they carry forward the various departments of the farm enterprise with marked energy and progressiveness. James E. Galloway has lived on this farm from the time of his birth and has stated that he feels that he is almost a part of it. He has shown much circumspection in his agricultural enterprise and also in stocking the farm with pure-bred cattle and other excellent live stock. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, but he has had no desire for public office of any kind.

GEORGE BARNARD. — The prosperity of Gage county is due largely to the industry displayed and the success achieved by those of its citizens who are engaged in the noble occupation of tilling the soil. Among this number should be mentioned George Barnard, who for thirty-five years has given his best effort to the agricultural development of his adopted county.

Mr. Barnard is a native of Tennessee, his birth occurring near Tazewell, in Claiborne county, December 11, 1862, a son of John and Delia C. (Webb) Barnard, both of whom were natives of Tennessee. The father met his death in 1877, by a fall from a horse. His widow now resides in Kentucky. They were the parents of ten children, two of whom, James and George, are residents of Gage county.

George Barnard was reared and educated in his native state, and was a lad of fifteen years when he was bereft of his father. In 1883 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and thereafter he conducted farming operations on leased land, in Hanover, Logan and Midland townships, until 1900. Having carefully husbanded his earnings, he then purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and as his financial resources increased he added to his holdings, until today he is the owner of four hundred acres in Midland township. Beginning his career empty-handed, he has by diligence and intelligently directed efforts acquired a valuable estate. His farm is well improved and everything about the place is substantial. The buildings and neat appearance display the thrift and good judgment of its owner.

April 3, 1879, Mr. Barnard was united in marriage to Miss Belle Day, who was born in Greene county, Tennessee, December 29, 1862, and to this union have been born eight children: William C. is a farmer in Logan township; Mary is the wife of Charles Le Poidevin, of Midland township; John, Woodson, James, and Roy also are farmers of Midland township; Zella is at home, and one child died in infancy. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church, of which they are devoted members. In politics Mr. Barnard is a Democrat. The allurements and emoluments of public office have no charms for him, as he prefers to give his time and attention to his business interests, of which he has made a decided success.

LOUIS WERNER. — One of the noble and well ordered institutions of Nebraska is the Home for the Feeble Minded, at Beatrice, and of the same Mr. Werner has been the efficient and honored steward since 1908, his residence in the county having covered a period of more than forty years. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France, October 6, 1853, and the province of his nativity, now again the stage of terrific warfare, passed under the dominion of Germany at the time of the Franco-Prussian war. He is a son of Frederick and Dorothy (Weil) Werner, both likewise natives of Alsace-Lorraine, where the former was born in 1809 and the latter in February, 1810, their marriage having been solemnized about 1836 and both having passed their entire lives in their native province, where the father died in 1868 and the mother in 1886. Frederick Werner served seven years in the French army and thereafter he followed the carpenter's trade, in which connection he became a successful contractor and erected a number of important public buildings, churches, etc. Of the five children the subject of this review is the younger of the two survivors, and his brother, Charles, resides in the historic old city of Strassburg, capital of Alsace-Lorraine. The parents were devout communicants of the Lutheran church and the paternal grandfather of the subject of this review was Jacob Werner, who likewise was a carpenter by trade and vocation.

Louis Werner was reared and educated in his native province and there he learned the trade of carpenter with such a measure of efficiency as to be able to uphold the ancestral prestige of the family name in this connection. In 1871 he came to the United States and established his residence in New York city. There he followed his trade for the ensuing six years, at the expiration of which, in 1877, he came to Nebraska, with Gage county as his destination. In the following year he purchased twenty acres of land, in Midland township, and there he continued to maintain his home for thirty-two years, giving his attention to farm enterprise and eventually developing a good property, which he still owns. Upon leaving the farm Mr. Werner removed to Beatrice and resumed the work of his trade. Here he continued his activities as a contractor and builder until 1908, since which time he has served continuously, through successive reappointments, as steward of the Nebraska Home for the Feeble Minded, his retention of the office affording the best evidence of the efficiency of his administration. He is a Democrat in his political adherency and served two years as a member of the county board of supervisors. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, his wife having been a

communicant of the Catholic church, as are also their children.

In 1875 Mr. Werner wedded Miss Nepomocena Musialowska, who was born in Poland and whose death occurred in 1894. Concerning the children of this union the following brief record is available: Josie is the wife of Albert Hetherington, of Beatrice; Sophia Anna remains with her father; Mary is the wife of Michael Rooney, a farmer in the state of Wyoming; Lulu remains at the paternal home; Leo is associated with his father-in-law, Louis Graff, in the lumber business at Beatrice; Nettie is employed in the office of a leading trade journal in the city of Lincoln; and Dorothy is the wife of Edwin Graff, of Blakely township.

MARTIN V. B. NICHOLS, one of the well known and highly honored citizens of Beatrice, was born at Newark, New York, March 17, 1835, a son of Samuel F. Nichols, M. D., who was a representative physician in Wayne county, New York. In 1844 Dr. Nichols removed with his family to Wisconsin, where he platted the village of Albany and became the virtual founder of the same. There he organized the Northwestern Stage Company, which has continued operations for more than half a century, and he became one of the prominent and influential citizens of the Badger state, his wife having been a member of a prominent family in Wayne county, New York, one of her brothers having been superintendent of the historic old Erie canal, besides having served as a member of the state senate of New York. The maiden name of Mrs. Nichols was Julia A. Bartle.

Martin Van Buren Nichols was afforded the advantages of the common schools of his native state, and also attended an academy at Platteville, Wisconsin, in which state he later was a student in Beloit College. As a youth he became associated with the stage company organized by his father at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and in 1858, he was placed in charge of the company's business, as general manager in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. He eventually became one of the largest stockholders of this pioneer corporation, the Northwestern Stage Company, which later assumed control of the business of the El Paso Stage Company, operating in the southwest. In 1878 the Northwestern Stage Company operated the most expeditious mail service ever given to the government by a stage line — this operation having been between Los Angeles and Soledad, California. During the climacteric period of the Civil war Mr. Nichols served as provost marshal in Minnesota, the stage company with which he was identified having at the time been running stages through the Winnebago Indian reservation, and the historic New Ulm massacre having there taken place within this period. Mr. Nichols loaded wagons with arms and munitions and set forth, as provost marshal, for Mankato. En route he encountered his own men and stock and as the men were fleeing to a point of safety he ordered them all to turn back, the little band which was thus reinforced having thereafter taken general part in conflict with the insubordinate Indians.

In 1867 Mr. Nichols came to Nebraska and for a time he maintained his residence at Nebraska City, as representative of the Northwestern Stage Company. In 1869 he removed to Osage, Iowa, and there the family home was maintained for the ensuing nineteen years. He continued his active association with the operation of stage lines until the construction of railroads caused the business to wane, the Northwestern Stage Company having been the first to establish stage service between Nebraska City and Beatrice, and the organization of the company being still maintained, with Mr. Nichols as general manager.

Mr. Nichols held the responsible post of general manager of the Northwestern Stage Company during the years in which it was conducting active and important operations in many states of the west and northwest. Passengers were conveyed in "Concord coaches" and stages, and the company became associated with the El Paso Stage Company in operations in Texas and other southern states after the close of the Civil war, their mail receipts at this period running as high as one

million dollars annually and the express business handled being correspondingly large. At the time when the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad was in process of construction the Northwestern Stage Company operated a line of stages between Fort Scott, Kansas, and Austin, Texas, and between Little Rock Arkansas, and Hot Springs. In this enterprise were utilized Concord coaches with six-horse teams, and ambulances for the sick were provided by the company. This line was in operation at the time when the epidemic of epizootic swept over virtually the entire country, and all of its horses were afflicted with the malady, with, however, very few fatal cases, owing to the wise policies adopted in caring for the animals. The horses, when so badly afflicted with phleghm in the throat that they could hardly breathe and could move only with difficulty, were harnessed to the stages and started forth on a slow walk. After going four or five miles they would sweat profusely and become so limbered up that they could thereafter proceed along their regular route. After their journey was completed they would be carefully blanketed and each horse be given a good dose of whisky and pepper. After eating they would, in three or four hours, again be in the same condition as on the previous day, and could not eat or drink. The epidemic continued about two months but by following the system described the stage company not only saved its horses but continued to use them in the active service. For service in Nebraska the company first stocked its line for the passenger and mail transportation between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Omaha, Nebraska, and the route was along the river on the Kansas side. Much of the road along this route was in very bad condition, and two days and one night were demanded in making the stage journey of one hundred and fifty miles. Mr. Nichols made an admirable record in handling the important transportation service of the pioneer days, and it is pleasing to enter these brief details concerning that period.

During the period of his residence in Beatrice Mr. Nichols has been distinctly the advocate and supporter of civic and material progress. Here he has served as president of the Union Savings Bank, and at the present time he is vice-president of the First National Bank. He is a staunch advocate of the principles of the Republican party and he and his wife hold to the faith of the Presbyterian church.

In June, 1865, Mr. Nichols married Miss Frances A. Lindsley, daughter of Charles H. and Sylvia (Willard) Lindsley, of Rochester, Minnesota, and the three children of this union are Stella, who is the wife of Charles H. Van Arsdale, of Beatrice; Samuel F., of whom specific mention is made on other pages; and Grace, who is the wife of Walter S. McLucas, president of the Commerce Trust Company, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Nichols gained wide and varied experience in connection with pioneer life on the frontier and it is interesting to record that he became closely associated with the interests of Nebraska in the year that marked the admission of the territory to statehood. He is one of the venerable pioneer citizens of Beatrice and it is most consistent to pay to him this tribute in the history of the county and the state.

BYRON P. ZUVER. — In the years that have passed, many of the illustrious citizens of Gage county have gone to their reward. The impress of their lives and the evidences of their labors are felt on every hand, and lesson and incentive are given in reviewing the life records of such noble men of the past. The following is a copy of the record prepared for a former publication of Gage county personal histories, and the context fully merits reproduction in this volume.

"The grandparents upon the paternal side of the family of which Byron P. Zuver is a member were Henry and Margaret (Schneider) Zuver; upon the maternal side, John and Elizabeth (Zuver) Kerns. Both these families were of Holland Dutch origin, and representatives of both became residents of America prior to the Revolutionary war. The history of the Kerns family in America dates back to 1727. The two families included within their

circles a large number of children, of whom were Solomon Zuver and Julia Ann Kerns, the father and mother of Byron P. Zuver. Solomon Zuver was born in the year 1819, in Pennsylvania, and his wife was born in Ohio. They were united in marriage in 1839, in Wayne county, Ohio, whither the father of our subject had accompanied his parents. Of this union there were born five children, the eldest of these being Byron P. The others were Sarah, John H., George W., and Henry. The last named died when quite young; John H. departed this life in 1883, in Sonoma county, California; Sarah resides in Los Angeles, that state; and George W. lives near Adams, Nebraska.

"Solomon Zuver became prosperous in his farming and mercantile business, which very rapidly expanded, and in a short time he became comparatively well-to-do, but reverses followed rapidly upon the heels of success, owing to some unfortunate transactions, and his fortune melted away, leaving him nothing but the unsubstantial memory and sometimes bitter reflections of baffled hopes and desires. In 1855, a poor man and starting life the second time, he moved to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, where he was one of the early pioneers. He there engaged in keeping hotel, and by the summer of 1864 he had so succeeded in business as to be able to make a somewhat extended trip to the Pacific coast and through the northwestern states. Upon his return home he removed to Kansas, where he lived until October 5, 1878, when he departed this life, at the age of fifty-eight years. He was married three times, but had no children by the last two marriages.

"Byron P. Zuver was born November 8, 1840, in Wayne county, Ohio. After the removal of the family to Iowa he attended the common schools, and in the winter of 1860 he taught school. He left the teacher's desk to attend classes of Western College, in Linn county, Iowa. April 28, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, being the first to enlist from this county. Owing to the fact that only three-months men could be utilized to advantage, he was obliged to re-enlist, on the 20th of September, 1861. The organization of this company for service was at Cedar Rapids, where the ladies of the city presented them with a silken flag that was afterwards carried into the conflict and became a source of inspiration and courage to the jaded and weary soldiers. From that city they went to Dubuque, and November 28th they proceeded by railroad to St. Louis, where they were stationed until January 28, 1862. They then went to Smithland, Kentucky, thence to Fort Henry, which was reached February 6th, and that very day the fort surrendered. Mr. Zuver was an active participant in the battle and splendid victory of Fort Donelson. At Mineral Landing they took the boats for Pittsburg Landing, where they arrived March 20th, and on the 6th of the following month they were in the battle of Shiloh. On the evening of that day several regiments were taken prisoners, among them the Twelfth Iowa, which had been in the conflict all day and which fought to the bitter end, in the portion of the field known by the enemy as Hornet's Nest and Hell's Hollow.

"The prisoners — among them Mr. Zuver — were hurried off to Corinth and thence to Memphis; from Memphis they were transferred successively to Granada, Jackson, and Meridian, Mississippi, and finally to Mobile, Alabama, where they were put upon boats and sent to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, their arrival at this point occurring on the tenth day of their imprisonment. It was the great misfortune of these prisoners to be under the charge of the notorious tyrant, Henry Wirz, of Andersonville Prison fame, and from him they suffered, directly or indirectly, the most scandalous treatment and untold brutality. Leaving Tuscaloosa, they were then taken to Montgomery, Alabama, and there they were paroled, on the 22d of May. Mr. Zuver rejoined the army, on the 30th of the same month, at Huntsville, Alabama, and as a paroled prisoner-of-war he was sent to Nashville, Louisville, Cairo, and finally, on the 10th day of July, to Benton Barracks, at St. Louis, Missouri. Here he remained until the reorganization of the regi-

ment, on the first day of January of the following year — 1863.

"Leaving St. Louis on the 9th of April, Mr. Zuver with his regiment started once more to the front. Their first battle was that of Grand Gulf, Louisiana, and this was speedily followed by the engagements at Fort Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Clinton, Edmund Station, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge. They then went on to the seige of Vicksburg, near which city they remained until its fall, July 4, 1863. They next engaged in the eight days' seige of Jackson, Mississippi, which fell in the same month. Next was the battle of Brandon, which was fought on the 19th of July. Returning to Vicksburg, they were stationed there until the Canton expedition, in October, in which they took part. In the next month they went back to Memphis, guarding the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, and in this work the regiment continued during the winter of 1863-1864, at Chewalla, Tennessee.

"On Christmas day of the year 1863 Mr. Zuver re-enlisted as a veteran, and February 1, 1864, he started once more for Vicksburg, where the regiment was engaged in guard duty at the Black River Bridge until the 4th of March. The next four days were spent at Vicksburg, and March 8th they left for home, arriving at Davenport, Iowa, on the 22d After much needed rest and recreation, they reassembled at Davenport on the 26th of April, proceeding immediately to Memphis, where they arrived May 1st and were engaged in picket duty until the 16th. Active hostilities for this company re-commenced with the battle of Tupelo, which lasted from the 13th to the 16th of July. This was the occasion when the Twelfth Iowa Regiment covered itself with a mantle of glory that can never grow old or dim; they were the heroes of the day. Upon the 22d they were back to Memphis and on the 31st of the same month they started out for the Oxford expedition. At this period Mr. Zuver was detailed for provost duty part of the time, at Holly Springs, and also took part in the battles of Abbeville and Tallahatchie, Mississippi.

"The regiment returned to Memphis on the 30th of August and then proceeded to Duval's Bluff, on the 8th of September, thence to Brownsville on the 11th, then leaving to go on the "Pap" Price expedition, in which they followed Price and his forces for three hundred and fifty miles. Landing at Cape Girardeau, Missouri on the 5th of October, they went to St. Louis; thence to Jefferson City, arriving on the 18th; thence by cars to LaMine Bridge, where they set forth on the march to the scene of action. On the way they passed through Sedalia, Lexington and Independence, arriving on the battlefield of the Big Blue on the 24th of the same month, — just after the fight was over. From that place they went to Santa Fe, Kansas, reaching Harrisonville, Missouri, on the 26th. They left again on the 30th, for St. Louis, via Sedalia.

"Upon the 8th of November Mr. Zuver voted in the capitol building of Missouri and in favor of Abraham Lincoln. This is memorable to him as being his first presidential vote. He was twenty-four years of age at the time. Leaving St. Louis on the 23d, he proceeded with his regiment to Cairo, which was reached in four days; thence on to Nashville. December 15th and 16th he and his brave comrades were again under fire and added fresh laurels to those already won. After this they went on the Hood expedition. Mr. Zuver's regiment belonged to the Sixteenth Army Corps, which became known by the opprobrious appellation "Smith's Guerrillas." The expedition was continued to the Tennessee river, where they arrived January 2, 1865. On the 10th they were at Eastport, Mississippi, where they remained the 7th of February. Then they went to Paducah, Cairo, Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans, in which last named city they arrived on the 21st. During this time Mr. Zuver, being detached from his regiment, was transferred to the ordnance department of the division, as ordnance sergeant, in which service he remained until near the close of the war.

"From Lake Pontchartrain they left for Mobile Bay, and thence went to Spanish Fort. They participated in the seige of that

fort and also that of Fort Blakesley, which fell April 10, 1865, and was the cause of the evacuation of Mobile the next day. Thence they marched to Montgomery, Alabama, which was reached upon the 25th. During the said march they learned of Lee's surrender, and shortly afterward of Johnston's. During the summer and fall of 1865 they did duty at Selma and Talladega, and they then took up their march to Memphis, Tennessee, proceeding onward to Demolis, Meridian and Corinth, at which last point they arrived January 3, 1866. Mr. Zuver returned to his company on the 19th of July, 1865, with the rank of sergeant. Leaving Memphis on the 18th, they reached Cairo on the 20th and Davenport on the 23d. The regiment was mustered out, to date the 20th of January, and was paid off on arrival at Davenport, where the gallant comrades, had marched, labored, fought and suffered together so long, answered the words of command for the last time, bade each other their affectionate farewells, and disbanded.

"Mr. Zuver was in the service of his country during a period of four years and four months. Within this time he marched over four thousand miles, in all weathers, suffering from heat and dust, frost and wet, passing over roads rough, hard and rocky, and through streams and swamps, or plodding wearily through deep clay and mud, — no easy task or pleasant journey. It is somewhat remarkable that in spite of the fact that Mr. Zuver was so long in the service, so often an active combatant, so often engaged in lesser hand-to-hand conflicts, he sustained only one wound, and that of a comparatively slight nature, — this occurring at the battle of Shiloh. He kept a very careful record of all the happenings and circumstances of any importance from the first to the last of his military experience and has since written a very complete, accurate and interesting history of Company D, Twelfth Iowa Veteran Volunteers, besides which he has received the honor of an appointment as a member of the regimental historical committee.

"After the war Mr. Zuver returned to Mason City, Iowa, and engaged as clerk in a mercantile house, but in the fall of 1866 he engaged in the hotel business at Waterloo, Iowa. There he continued until the spring of the following year, when he came with his brother, George W., to Nebraska City, where he arrived on the 1st of July, reaching Brownville the next day. During the summer he engaged in farming, and in the winter in teaching school. Upon the 17th of July, 1867, Mr. Zuver took a homestead in Hooker township, Gage county, and it was during this time that he became acquainted with Miss Nancy Adams, the daughter of John O. Adams, the first settler of Gage county, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. October 16, 1873, Mr. Zuver and Miss Nancy Adams were joined in holy wedlock. Nancy Adams was born October 16, 1842, in Du-Bois county, Indiana, where she continued to make her home until she was fourteen years of age, when she came with her parents to Nebraska Territory, in 1857. Her education was, by force of circumstances, quite meager so far as schooling went, although she has earnestly endeavored to make up for any loss in that direction. The first school in upper Nemaha Valley was held in the house of her father, who did everything in his power to advance the interests of the young people.

"Mr. Zuver owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hooker township and two hundred and forty acres in Adams township, where he resided. He was a member of the Post No. 100, Grand Army of the Republic, at Adams, of which he was commander for two years and adjutant for a number of years. For several years, he was justice of the peace in Hooker township and also in Adams township. He served also as township assessor and deputy county assessor, as well as a member of the petit jury and the United States circuit jury. For a number of years he was appointed by the governor as the register of voters. It is hardly necessary after the foregoing military and official record to state that in political matters Mr. Zuver was an uncompromising Republican and

that all of his influence and energy were at its service.

"An intimation has already been made to the effect that Mr. Zuver has made a reputation as a writer upon the thrilling, painful and patriotic history of the war. To this department of literature he added that of a writer of travels. The productions of his pen in this department are very interesting, because he is a man of keen perceptions and knows what to observe and how to observe it, and what is perhaps more rare, how to present it. In 1884 he made a trip to California, and concerning the journey he supplied the columns of the Beatrice Express with regular letters of deep interest. Comment on such history is superfluous; it is its own compliment as to the character of Mr. Zuver and the estimation in which he was held by his fellow men."

Mr. Zuver continued a resident of Gage county until his death, which occurred March 21, 1893. From 1880 until his death he was in the United States railway service. His wife passed away April 28, 1898. The children born to this worthy couple were six in number: Georgia L. died at the age of thirteen years; Mary A. and Martha are twins, the former being the wife of Daniel E. Tracey, of whom special mention is made on other pages of this volume, and the latter being the wife of E. H. Whittemore, of Adams, this county; Anna and John A. died in infancy; and Byron P. is a resident of Ellendale, North Dakota.

CHRIST SPILKER. — In virtually the center of a fine landed estate of somewhat more than five hundred acres, in Section 17, Holt township, is situated the beautiful modern farm home of Mr. Spilker, and the attractive residence combines with the group of other high-grade farm buildings to give to the place the semblance of a little village. Here Mr. Spilker is living retired from active labor since the time when he was incapacitated by a paralytic stroke, on the 21st of February, 1912, but he bears his infirmity with fortitude and equanimity, his mental faculties are unimpaired and he takes lively interest in the supervision of the general activities of his fine estate, as well in community affairs, — a man who has won success through vigorous and well ordered endeavor and who has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the high regard of his fellow men. In Gage county Mr. Spilker is the owner of a finely improved estate of eight hundred and eighty acres, — five hundred and sixty acres in Section 17, Holt township, and the remaining three hundred and twenty acres in Midland township, four miles north of the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Spilker was born in Westphalia, Germany, July 18, 1870, and is a son of Henry and Louisa (Frome) Spilker, who were honored pioneers of Gage county and concerning whom specific mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of the career of their son Ernst H.

Christ Spilker acquired his rudimentary education in the common schools and was twelve years of age at the time when the family home was established in Gage county, where he has maintained his residence during the intervening years and where his prosperity has been won entirely through his own efforts, save that his father gave to him the sum of fifteen hundred dollars as a basis for his independent activities. He was reared to adult age on the old homestead farm near Clatonia and later the family lived not far distant from his present fine farm estate in Holt township. As a youth he attended the district schools of Gage county and he has never wavered in his allegiance to farm industry, through the medium of which he has won success of most substantial and worthy order. In 1891 Mr. Spilker purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Holt township, and after there conducting operations a few years he sold the property to his brother Frederick. In the meanwhile he had purchased other farm property in the same township, and his good judgment has been significantly manifested in his further accumulation of Gage county land, as well as in the progressive policies he has followed in all departments of his farm enterprise. He has been influential in community

affairs of public order, has served as treasurer of Holt township, is a Republican in his political proclivities, and he and his wife are communicants of the German Lutheran church. His farm in Holt township is one of the finest in this part of the county, all parts of the estate being kept in the best of order and the buildings being of most modern type, the attractive family residence, of eight rooms, having furnace heat. Mr. Spilker is one of the principal stockholders of the Farmers' State Bank at Pickrell and is serving as vice-president of the same.

On the 1st of June, 1892, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Spilker to Mrs. Mary (Tiemann) Spilker, widow of his brother Henry, who had met death as the result of injuries received when he was kicked by a mule. Mrs. Spilker's marriage to Henry Spilker occurred March 6, 1891, and his death occurred only a few months later, the only child of this union being Henry, who married Lydia Obring and who is now engaged in farming in Holt township. Mrs. Spilker was born in Germany, January 4, 1874, and was eleven years of age when she came to Gage county, in 1885, in company with one of her kinswomen. She is a daughter of William and Anna (Daubendick) Tiemann, who came to this county in 1888, and who removed, in 1907, to Kansas, in which state they have since maintained their residence. Mr. and Mrs. Spilker have a fine family of eight children, all of whom remain, in 1918, members of the ideal home circle, their names being here entered in respective order of birth: William, Herman, Ernest, John, Frederick, Charles, Louisa and Anna.

GEORGE C. BURROWS. — A brief record of the Burrows family cannot fail to be of interest to the readers of this volume, as its members have faithfully served state and nation in times of both war and peace.

George C. Burrows was born in Chautauqua county, New York, May 27, 1859. His father, Jay Burrows, likewise was a native of the Empire State, born in the little town of Mayville, at the head of Lake Chautauqua, March 4, 1837. As a young man Jay Burrows learned the printer's trade, which he followed until the outbreak of the Civil war. Having watched the course of events, his patriotic spirit was aroused, and he enlisted in the Ninth New York Cavalry, with which he faithfully followed the stars and stripes for three years, being mustered out at the close of hostilities, as a lieutenant. In 1865 he removed with his family to Iowa, where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1880. He then became a resident of Filley township, Gage county, Nebraska. In 1879 he had purchased a relinquishment on the last homestead taken in Gage county. He was engaged in farming this tract for ten years. Mr. Burrows founded and organized the Farmers' Alliance in Nebraska, and in 1890 he moved to Lincoln and edited and published the Farmers' Alliance official paper, continuing in this connection until shortly before his death, which occurred January 16, 1900. In New York state he married Lucinda Walker, who passed away in 1894. Of their children, Charles E. died in childhood; George C. is the subject of this review; Frank E. is a resident of Augusta, Kansas; James B. lives at Paul, Idaho; Mary B. is the wife of L. H. Boggs, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Lucinda B. is the wife of William Axling, of Tokio, Japan, and they have devoted their lives to missionary work; Sara A. is the wife of J. B. Lobell, of Denver, Colorado; and Carrie died in childhood.

George C. Burrows was a young man of twenty-one years when the family home was transferred to Nebraska. His education was acquired in the common schools of Iowa and Nebraska, and he became a farmer on his father's place. On October 16, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Long, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Stahr) Long. Mr. and Mrs. Long came to Gage county in 1880, and bought land in Filley township. The father died August 27, 1888, and the mother passed away May 11, 1906. They were the parents of six children: Elias, was a soldier in the Civil war and died in the army hospital at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1865; Alvin, died in childhood; John, resides at

Idaho Falls, Idaho; Mary died in infancy; Mrs. George C. Burrows was the next in order of birth; and William died May 28, 1917.

To Mr. and Mrs. Burrows have been born six children: Earl C. married Miss Mabel Culp, and they reside in Adams, this county; Jessie died at the age of seventeen years; Herbert W. died in childhood; Chase W. enlisted as a volunteer in Company F, One Hundred and Thirty-Fourth Regiment United States Army, and is now at Camp Cody, New Mexico: he was elected by a large majority to the State Legislature and had the distinction of being the youngest member of that body during the session of 1917-1918; Leslie W. is a member of the same military company as his brother Chase; and Miss Nina C., is still under the paternal roof.

Mrs. Burrows is a member of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Burrows is a Democrat. For thirty-eight years he has been a resident of Gage county, where he is well and favorably known, and where he has always taken a prominent part in supporting those things which have to do with the upbuilding of the community.

PERRY L. BOWER, market gardener and greenhouse proprietor in the city of Beatrice, was born in Jefferson county, Nebraska, September 6, 1871, and is a son of Henry T. and Mary A. (Norman) Bower.

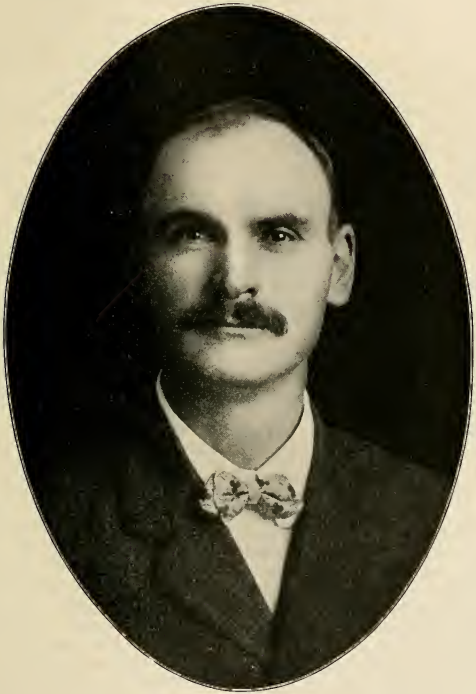
Henry T. Bower was born in Ohio, June 3, 1844. At the age of eighteen he enlisted in an Ohio battery of light artillery, and he served as gunner until the close of the war, in 1865. Mr. Bower came to Nebraska in 1869, settling in Jefferson county, where he took a homestead. At that time the nearest town to this pioneer farm was Beatrice, about twenty miles distant, where he went for the family mail, often making the trip on foot. A few years later a postoffice was established at Bower, Jefferson county, and this was named for Mr. Bower. When he first located in Jefferson county he hauled lumber and provisions from Nebraska City with ox team, and it took one week to make the round trip. Mr. Bower lived on the homestead until 1899, when he retired and moved to Fairbury, Jefferson county, where he now makes his home. Mr. Bower had three brothers and three sisters. Fred and Harlow are deceased; Arthur is living in Missouri; Mary is the widow of Henry Quayle and resides in Ohio; Miss Ella Bower is a resident of Corvallis, Oregon; and Mrs. Minnie Huff lives in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Bower became the parents of three children: Lavinia is deceased; Rena is the wife of W. J. Moss, an attorney at Fairbury, Nebraska; and Perry L. is the subject of this sketch.

Perry L. Bower was educated in the country schools of Jefferson county, and as a boy and youth he worked on the farm with his father. Later he farmed for himself in that county. In 1908 he came to Beatrice and engaged in market gardening. About two years ago Mr. Bower built a beautiful home and greenhouse at 739 West Scott street, the greenhouse being one of the most complete and modern establishments of its kind to be found in the state. The building is of concrete and steel construction, heated with hot water, with about seven thousand feet under glass. Here Mr. Bower raises winter vegetables for the market, making a specialty of strawberries and early vegetables.

Mr. Bower owns twenty acres of land and has about five acres of this under irrigation, using the Skinner system of irrigation, and he has it so arranged that he can use either water pumped from his own well by gas engine or that obtained by direct connection with the Beatrice city water system.

On July 18, 1899, Mr. Bower was united in marriage with Miss Ethel Rutledge, daughter of Thomas J. and Delilah (Fred) Rutledge, of Jefferson county. They are the parents of four children — Albert L., Harold O., Thelma I., and Hugh T.

Thomas J. Rutledge, father of Mrs. Bower, died at Fairbury, Nebraska, in April, 1905, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife passed away in November, 1907, at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge were the parents of seven children: Irving is



PERRY L. BOWER

deceased; William H. is a resident of Arlington, Kansas; Alice is the widow of William Montgomery and lives at Houston, Texas; Mary is the wife of Aaron Cowles, of Fairbury, Nebraska; Ethel is the wife of the subject of the sketch; and Misses Ella and Belle Rutledge reside at Fairbury, this state.

JOHN R. SPEALMAN. — After one has spent many years in honest toil, to win a competence for old age and to rear sons and daughters who are willing to give of their very best in the upholding of the principles that are for the advancement of mankind, it is with pleasure that such a person looks cheerfully upon the past and confidently to the future. There is also a pleasure in knowing that all the struggling and striving has not been in vain; that our ideals, our principles, are being realized in our posterity and that they are taking up the burden where we laid it down, with a surer vision and a greater strength.

John R. Spealman and his wife are honored citizens of Wymore, where they are living a retired life, after years of active farming in Marshall county, Kansas.

John Spealman was born in La Salle county, Illinois, July 18, 1848, and is a son of Henry and Sarah Ann (Richart) Spealman, who became pioneers of Marshall county, Kansas. Henry Spealman was born in Germany, February 15, 1820, a son of John Spealman, and his wife was born in Pennsylvania, November 15, 1828. They were joined in holy wedlock June 24, 1847, in the state of Pennsylvania, where Henry Spealman had settled upon his arrival in this land of freedom. With hearts full of courage and beating with abounding pulse of youth, they started their home life in La Salle county, Illinois, where they tilled the soil and where sons and daughters were growing up around them. Later they removed to Lee county, that state, and in 1886 they moved to Marshall county, Kansas, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land. Henry Spealman and his wife shared the privations of the pioneer life, and their sons and daughters also participated in these early experiences, the while they grew strong in mind and body and were prepared to meet the new difficulties of a more advanced civilization. November 1, 1896, Henry Spealman was laid to rest, and May 7, 1898, his wife followed him to the life eternal. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living: John R. is the subject of this sketch; George A. died in Illinois; James Edwin is a farmer of Osborne county, Kansas; Armenta F. died in August, 1879; William Henry is a farmer in Marshall county, Kansas; Rachel Mary is the wife of J. E. Daily, a retired farmer of Marysville, Kansas; Andrew is a farmer in Colorado; Clara B. is the wife of P. T. Burk, a retired farmer of Marysville, Kansas; Marcus F. is farming the old homestead in Marshall county, Kansas.

John R. Spealman was educated in Lee county, Illinois and in 1875 he married Miss Sarah M. Cass, who was born in that county, in 1857, she being a daughter of Aaron Jefferson Cass and Sarah Jane (Wheeler) Cass, the former born in 1830, in Steuben county, New York, and the latter born in 1840, in Bangor, Maine. Mr. and Mrs. Cass were early settlers of PawPaw, Lee county, Illinois, and in 1870 they homesteaded near Frankfort, Marshall county, Kansas. There they continued their farming operations until their death. Mr. Cass died August 30, 1910, and his wife died in 1890. Of their seven children six are living: Sarah is the wife of John R. Spealman, subject of this sketch; Aaron Jacob is deceased; Edwin B. is a farmer near Casey, Iowa; John Franklin is a farmer near Frankfort, Kansas; Miles Diton is a farmer near Onaga, Kansas; Martha Ann is the wife of A. C. Scoville, a carpenter at Frankfort, Kansas; and Ida May makes her home in Topeka, Kansas.

Mrs. Spealman was a young girl when her parents established the home in Kansas and that she imbibed the principles of that state is attested by the fact that for many years she has been an ardent worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. For eight years she has been county president of the organization and she is also president of the

local chapter. Her influence in political circles has borne fruit, as is seen by the state prohibitory amendment passed by a Nebraska legislature. She has done more for the prohibition cause in the southeastern part of Nebraska than has any other woman, and as much as any other woman in the entire state. Her time and her talents are given unstintingly for the righteous cause of making this nation free,— free from moral sins as well as physical bondage to other nations. Such a mother, with such ideals, can not help but give to the world sons and daughters who will carry the light of truth and civilization in a higher and better way. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Spealman: The firstborn is John Franklin, who was afforded the advantages of the Wymore schools and finished his education by attending the Nebraska Medical College. For eighteen years he practised medicine in Lincoln, where he was city physician for two years and city health officer for a number of years. He served his country on the border, in the Mexican trouble, and since our participation in the great European conflict he has subordinated all else to give his time and service to the nation. He is in command of Field Hospital, No. 166, sanitary train of the Forty-second Division of the Rainbow Forces of the United States in France. He was formerly in charge of the Nebraska field hospital corps of the National Guard, with the rank of major. The division of which Major Spealman is in charge has won commendatory mention from Secretary of War Baker. Major Spealman married Miss Ruth Holmes and they have two daughters, Sarah and Edith. The next child of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Spealman is Ernest Garfield, who is an attorney at Stalkton, Kansas; he was educated in the Wymore schools and the Nebraska State University, at Lincoln, in which he was graduated. Cora Belle, who died in 1915, was the wife of Andrew Alexander, of Lincoln, and she is survived by one daughter, Phyllis Belle. Henry Jefferson Spealman has active charge of the original eighty-acre homestead of his father in Marshall county, Kansas.

In 1866 John R. Spealman came to Marshall county, Kansas, and when of sufficient age he there homesteaded eighty acres of land. He added unto his land holdings until he had acquired four hundred acres. In 1888 he retired to Wymore, where he is now making his home and where his sons and daughters have received the advantages of the excellent public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Spealman have reason to be proud of their children and also are to be commended for their efforts in the work of reform in behalf of the people of their state and nation. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are active in all of its social and missionary affairs. Fraternally they are members of the Knights & Ladies of Security, in which organization they have held all official positions. It is men and women like Mr. and Mrs. Spealman, — willing to give their lives that great principles may live — who are the ones that bring truth and righteousness to the world.

CHESTER F. KING, who resides in the village of Filley, was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, November 23, 1867, and is a son of Charles W. and Candace (Stenzell) King, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Chester F. King was nine years of age at the time of the family removal to Gage county, where he was reared under the conditions that marked the pioneer epoch and where he attended the district schools at intervals until he had attained to the age of twenty-four years. Finally he devoted several years to independent farm enterprise in Filley township. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

July 4, 1891, Mr. King wedded Miss Stella Pittman, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, and their marriage was the first one performed in the new court house of Gage county. Of this union have been born eight children: Charles Francis died at the age of sixteen years; the second child died in infancy; Effie is a popular teacher in the schools of her native county, as is also Hazel; Chester remains at the parental home; Jesse died at

the age of two years; Mildred remains with her parents; and the eighth child died in infancy.

WILLIAM E. BRYSON. — After years of industry which netted him a competence, Mr. Bryson is now living retired at University Place, Lancaster county, Nebraska. He is a native of Ohio, born in Morgan county, September 16, 1858, and is a son of the late Silas and Clarinda (Young) Bryson, to whom a memorial tribute is given on other pages of this volume. On April 1, 1862, the Bryson family arrived in Johnson county, Nebraska. Here William E. Bryson was reared on the pioneer farm, and four years later removal was made to Gage county. His boyhood being passed in the usual manner of farm lads, — in that his time was divided between studies in the district school, the pleasures of the playground and doing such tasks on the home farm as his age would permit. As his years and strength increased he assisted more largely in the work of development and cultivation of the pioneer farm. When a young man he purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Sections 23 and 24, Adams township, and as the years passed he improved and cultivated this tract until it became one of the valuable properties of the township. No better improved place could be found in Adams township, and on this farm he continued to labor until 1908, when he retired to the village of Adams. Later he moved to his present abode in University Place. Mr. Bryson has sold his farm in Gage county, and his time now is partly given to superintending a ranch in Thomas county, Kansas, the same comprising two sections of land.

On September 21, 1881, Mr. Bryson married Miss Etta Bryson, a daughter of David and Elizabeth Bryson, who were early settlers in Gage county. The father is deceased these many years. The mother, who has reached the advanced age of eighty-three years, resides (1918) at Adams. Mr. and Mrs. Bryson have become the parents of seven daughters; Kate is the wife of J. A. Miller, of St. Louis, Missouri; Dell is the wife of Paul Pillsbury, of Chico, California; Lois is the wife of C. S. Woten, of San Francisco; Jessie E. is the wife of Shirley Marshall, and they reside at Hastings, Nebraska; Mae is the wife of W. A. Gray, of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Nell and Mildred remain at the parental home.

The Bryson family were among the early settlers of Gage county, and contributed in large measure to its development and upbuilding. By industry and the careful husbanding of his resources William E. Bryson is enabled to lay aside the heavier labors and duties and to live in ease and comfort. He and his wife are members of and active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church, and they have a host of friends in Gage county, as well as in the community in which they now reside.

EZRA LEPOIDEVIN purchased in 1916 an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 26, Holt township, and is giving his characteristically vigorous supervision to its improvement and management, the while he exercises similar prerogatives in connection with a farm of equal area which he rents from the L. E. Austin estate, in Section 36 of the same township. He may well take pride in his status as one of the successful exponents of farm enterprise in his native county and he is one of the progressive agriculturists and stock-raisers of the younger generation in his native county.

Mr. LePoidevin was born in Midland township, this county, March 28, 1880, and is a son of Thomas LePoidevin, concerning whom individual mention is made on other pages. Reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm the subject of this review early learned the value and consistency of honest toil and endeavor, the while he profited fully also by the advantages afforded in the district schools. His inclinations and tastes have led him wisely to accord unwavering allegiance to the basic industries with which he is now identified and in connection with which he is making success not an accident but a logical result. He is loyal in support of those measures and

movements which make for the advancement of the general welfare of the community, is a Republican in politics and he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church.

December 22, 1909, Mr. LePoidevin wedded Miss Bessie Essam, who likewise was born in Midland township, where her father is a representative farmer, her mother being now deceased. Mrs. LePoidevin is a daughter of Jacob and Mollie (Bartram) Essam, both of whom were born and reared in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. LePoidevin have two children, — Irma, born February 7, 1912, and Irene, born March 3, 1913.

JAMES CRAWFORD. — Among the men of Gage county who fought gallantly in the Civil war and who have now passed to their reward, may justly be mentioned the late James Crawford. In 1863, when he was only seventeen years old, James Crawford enlisted in Company G. Sixty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he became one of Yale's famed sharpshooters. He was involved in many a battle ere the end of the war. At Kenesaw Mountain twenty-two of his company were killed and it seemed as though the enemy was to win the day, but the "Boys in Blue" fought bravely and finally won the victory. Mr. Crawford was also with Sherman on the famous march through Georgia to the sea. He was wounded twice and was taken to the military hospital at Springfield, Illinois.

James Crawford was born in New York city, October 10, 1846, and was a son of William and Mary (Quinn) Crawford, who were born in County Kerry, Ireland, and were land owners in the Emerald Isle, but they became convinced that the hospitable shores of the United States offered better opportunities than their native land. In 1845 they came to New York city, and for a number of years William Crawford conducted a steamship business between Brooklyn and New York. Later he operated an omnibus line. He continued to reside in New York city until his death.

The Crawford family lineage traces to the famous Robert Bruce, of Scotland, James Stuart being the descendant who founded the family in Ireland, and he having been beheaded because of his religious views, in the early part of the fifteenth century.

James Crawford received his education in Illinois and, as before noted, he enlisted from that state for service in the Civil war. When the war had ceased and the men were again able to go back to the peaceful occupations of office and farm, Mr. Crawford came back and began to study to fit himself more efficiently for his life work. In March, 1870, he married Miss Lavina McDonald, who lived only three months after their marriage.

In 1871 Mr. Crawford came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased land in Section 22, Wymore township, where he gave many years to successful farm enterprise, his death having occurred May 19, 1914. On the 31st of August, 1875, at Blue Springs, this county, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Crawford to Miss Carrie Lott, and their gracious companionship continued unbroken for nearly half a century, the ties being severed only by the death of the devoted husband and father. They reared their sons and daughters to lives of honor and usefulness, and concerning the children brief record may consistently be entered at this point: Frank E. is at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, a member of the fine military forces which the nation is preparing for participation in the great European war and he is stationed with his command at Deming, New Mexico, where he is captain of Company F, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment of the United States Army. Captain Crawford acquired his preliminary education in the district schools of Gage county, and supplemented this by attending the high school at Wymore. Later he took up the study of law, and in 1901 he was graduated at the law department of the University of Nebraska. Thereafter he was engaged in the practice of of his profession at Wymore until he became a member of the patriotic military organization which is destined to bring the greatest honor to the American arms in connection with the great world war. Alice, the elder daughter of the

honored subject of this memoir, is the wife of W. C. Dagwell, an insurance agent, and they reside in the city of Omaha, Mrs. Dagwell being a graduate nurse and having followed the work of her profession prior to her marriage. Mary E., the younger daughter, is the wife of Robert Jones, a skilled machinist, and they reside at Wymore, this county. Harry remains with his widowed mother on the old home farm and has the active management of the same. Ralph is identified with bridge building operations in the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

Mrs. James Crawford is a representative of one of the honored territorial pioneer families of Gage county. She was born at Blue Springs, this county, May 3, 1862, and is the youngest of the children of James Monroe Lott and Sarah L. (Knight) Lott. The father was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1826, and his death occurred in 1870, his wife having been born in Ohio, in 1832, and she having passed to the life eternal in the year 1909; their marriage was solemnized in Iowa and in 1862 they came to Nebraska Territory and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers in Sicily township, Gage county, where Mr. Lott entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and where he and his wife bore their full share of the hardships and arduous labors incidental to the reclaiming and improving of a pioneer farm, the while they reared their children carefully and well, inculcating in them the highest of ideals and principles and fortifying them for the duties of later years, much of this responsibility resting upon the devoted mother, as the father was in the very prime of life at the time of his death, which occurred on his home farm. Mr. Lott was a man of education and superior intellectual ken, and was preparing himself for the ministry at the time of his death, in the winter of 1870. He was a Republican in politics and as a citizen he was influential in community affairs in the pioneer period of Gage county's history. Mr. and Mrs. Lott became the parents of four children, of whom the youngest is Carrie, widow of the subject of this memoir. The other surviving children are Augustine and Olive M. Augustine, whose first wife was Dollie Wymore, chose Miss Ada Nichols for his second wife, and he is a blacksmith by trade, though at the present time he is operating a saw mill in the great lumbering district of the state of Washington. Olive M. is the wife of D. E. Moore, who is a veteran of the Civil war and who is now living retired at Napanee, Nebraska. All of the children were reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, for the ministry of which their father was preparing himself, and Mrs. Crawford is an earnest member of this church. She has the distinction of having been the first white child born in Blue Springs township, this county, and she acquired her education in the schools of the county, all of her life thus far having been passed within its gracious borders, so that she knows well the history of this section of the state and is deeply interested in all things touching the welfare of her native county.

James Crawford, to whom this memoir is dedicated, was a gentleman of distinctive culture and of high ideals, — a man who accounted well for himself in all of the relations of life. He was an appreciative and valued member of Coleman Post, No. 115, Grand Army of the Republic, and he served seven years as a lieutenant in the Nebraska state militia. He took lively interest in all that concerned the fine state of his adoption and was a member of the Nebraska State Historical Society. For thirty-nine years he served as a member of the school board of his district, and it is probable is that a record for such service during so prolonged a period can be claimed in connection with few, if any, other citizens of Gage county. Mr. Crawford held for two terms the office of county commissioner, he was a stalwart Republican in politics, was always alert and ready to aid in the furtherance of civic and material progress, and was a valued citizen who will long be remembered by his surving comrades of the Civil war and by his host of other friends.

CARL I. WHYMAN. — In Section 27, Adams township, on the outskirts of the town of Adams, may be found the beautiful residence of Carl I. Whyman, farmer and business man and a representative of one of Gage county's most prominent and influential pioneer families. Mr. Whyman was born at Adams, this county, on July 9, 1882, and is a son of Frank E. and Mary (Windle) Whyman. Frank E. Whyman is a native of Pennsylvania, born July 25, 1854, and he received his early education in the schools of his native state. As a youth of fourteen years he came with his parents to Nebraska and the family home was established in Adams township, Gage county, — in 1868. The father homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he reclaimed and improved. Frank E. Whyman eventually bought land and engaged in independent farm enterprise. He thus continued his activities until 1882, when he disposed of his land and engaged in the drug business in the village of Adams. In this business he continued for some time and he then sold out and engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, also buying and selling live-stock. In 1914 Mr. Whyman disposed of his business in Gage county, and removed to Boise City, Idaho, where he now makes his home. He is a son of Charles A. and Amelia (Allen) Whyman, who were natives of England and who came to the United States in 1852; Charles A. Whyman passed to the life eternal March 23, 1911. The following extract is taken from an article which appeared in the Adams newspaper at the time of his death:

"Charles Whyman was born April 15, 1827, at Great Bowden, Leicestershire, England. He was the youngest son of eleven children born to Henry and Anne Whyman. He was left fatherless at the age of twelve, which threw him upon his own resources, with the care of a widowed mother. This, together with the rigid conditions of England at that time, developed in him a spirit of integrity seldom met with and, with the prayers of a Christian mother, as a young man of twenty he consecrated himself to Christ, beginning his life of service at that time by entering the Congregational church, and that actively as an earnest Sabbath-school teacher, one of a company of young men who regularly taught in several villages each Sabbath. He married Amelia Allen, in the Butler Avenue Congregational church of Leamington, June 27, 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Whyman removed immediately to Mrs. Whyman's childhood home at Galbally, Ireland, where they resided about fifteen months, and where their first daughter, Mary, was born. In the fall of 1852 they embarked for America, which at that time meant a voyage of thirty-two days on a sailing vessel. They came to Pennsylvania and settled in Erie county, where they remained until 1868, when they came to Nebraska with twelve children, and settled on a homestead in Nemaha township, Gage county. Here they were welcomed by the hardy pioneers, and met the hardships with them. Many may remember the 'Old Log schoolhouse' church services, Father Whyman reading a sermon. In 1887 Mr. Whyman united with the Presbyterian church of Adams. Mr. Whyman's life has been one of activity as a farmer and merchant. He lived in the Adams vicinity for forty-three years. About four years ago he removed to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Cora Coffman, where on the morning of March 23, 1911, he passed peacefully to the home he had longed for, just ten years after the wife and mother departed. Ten of the fourteen children, forty-four grand children, and seventeen great-grandchildren are left to mourn the loss and cherish the memory of a noble father."

Carl I. Wyman was educated in the public schools of Adams, and is a graduate of the Adams high school. As a young man he clerked in a general merchandise store in Adams, and later he bought an interest in a furniture and undertaking business, with his father. This enterprise he continued to conduct until 1914, and in the same he is still interested. In 1914 Mr. Whyman bought sixty acres of land in Section 27, Adams township, and here he and his family now make their home, in a comfortable modern residence. He

is actively engaged in farming and stock-raising.

November 27, 1902, Mr. Whyman married Miss Mary Ellen Meyer, a daughter of the late Adolphus Meyer. Mrs. Whyman passed away on June 28, 1907, and is survived by three children, Bertha, Ruth and Harold, all at home. On April 21, 1908, Mr. Whyman was united in marriage to Mrs. Eliza A. Garrison, a sister of his former wife, and to this union one child has been born, Josephine.

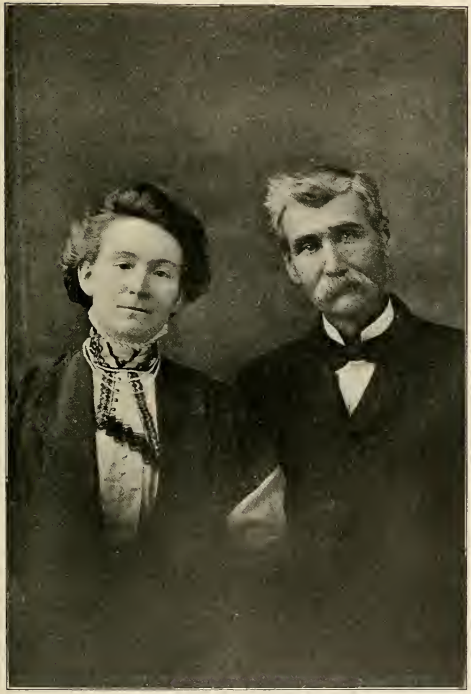
Mr. Whyman is one of a family of eleven children, as follows: George E., of Adams, Nebraska; Ralph W. and Arthur, of Lincoln; Harry, deceased; Eve, wife of George F. Bates, of Canby, Oregon; Estella, wife of Hugh Jones, of Monticello, Utah; Annie, wife of Earnest DeHaven, a soldier in the engineering corps of the United States Army; Esther and Mildred, of Boise, Idaho; and Rose, wife of Charles M. Galloway, of Adams, Nebraska.

In politics Mr. Whyman is a Republican, and he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Adams, where they are numbered among the most progressive and esteemed citizens.

JOHN BRADDOCK has proved himself energetic and forward-looking in his activities as a farmer and is one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of Filley township, where his attractive homestead is situated in Section 13. He is a scion of a sterling pioneer family of the Hawkeye state and was born in Marshall county, Iowa, October 16, 1853, a son of Martin and Delilah (Lepley) Braddock, who were born and reared in Ohio, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they removed to Iowa in 1850. They remained for a time in Mahaska county and then removed to Marshall county, where Martin Braddock entered claim to government land, perfected title to the same and developed a good farm, both he and his wife having there passed the remainder of their lives, the subject of this review having been the second of their eleven children, of whom eight are living. Martin Braddock made the overland trip to Iowa with team and wagon and on his arrival his available capital was represented in the sum of sixty-five cents. By energy and good management as a pioneer farmer he achieved independence and well merited prosperity, and his political support was given to the Democratic party, his wife having been a member of the Christian church. Mr. Braddock was a son of William Braddock, who was born in New England, of sterling colonial ancestry, his father having come to America from England. William Braddock became a pioneer in Ohio, where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. John Lepley, maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Pennsylvania and was a resident of Ohio for many years prior to his death.

John Braddock acquired his early education in the public schools of his native county and there continued his association with agricultural pursuits until 1883, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, of which sixty-five acres had been broken, a small house having been erected on the place. Since that time he has erected excellent farm buildings and made many other improvements, besides which he has added to the area of his farm estate until he now has a valuable property of two hundred and forty acres, devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising of good live stock, including white-face cattle that are bred largely from registered stock. He is liberal and progressive as a citizen and in politics gives his allegiance to the Democratic party.

In 1890 Mr. Braddock wedded Miss Sarah Woods, who was born in Johnson county, Iowa, and whose death occurred in February, 1893. She is survived by two sons, Ray and Frank, both active young exponents of farm enterprise in Gage county. In 1900 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Braddock to Miss Edna May Hogle, who was, like himself, born in Marshall county, Iowa, and they have three daughters — Bessie, Blanche, and Marjorie — all members of the United Brethren church. Mrs. Braddock is a birthright member of the



Mr. and Mrs. John Braddock

Society of Friends, and Mr. Braddock is affiliated with the lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in the village of Filley.

AMESBURY LEE, M. D. — Gage county claims as one of its representative physicians and surgeons Dr. Lee, who is a young man of excellent professional attainments and whose success is attested by his substantial and important general practice, as well as his unequivocal personal popularity. He maintains his residence and professional headquarters in the attractive village of Pickrell, in Holt township.

Dr. Lee was born in Jefferson county, New York, November 6, 1886, and is a son of George A. and Mary (Jackson) Lee, of whose three children he was the second in order of birth; Chlevera is the wife of G. Bowles, of Theresa, Jefferson county, New York; and Irving died in infancy.

George A. Lee was born in England and was a marble-cutter by trade. He followed his trade in Jefferson county, New York, where both he and his wife died, Dr. Lee having been doubly orphaned when he was a lad of seven years and thus having little definite knowledge concerning the family history of either of his parents. He was reared in the home of kinsfolk and at the age of thirteen years he began to assist in the general merchandise store of his uncle, John Lee, at Triumph, La Salle county, Illinois. His rudimentary education was acquired in the public schools of his native state and thereafter he continued his studies in those of Illinois until he had completed the curriculum of the high school. In consonance with his ambition and well formulated plans he entered, in 1902, the pharmacy department of Valparaiso Univeristy, at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he continued his technical studies one year. Thereafter he was employed in a drug store in the city of Chicago, and in 1905, he came to Gage county and assumed a similar position in the establishment of the M. E. Schultz Drug Company, at Beatrice. In the following year he took a position in a drug store in the city of Omaha, and there, in 1906, he was matriculated in Creighton Medical College, in which he completed his professional education and was graduated as a member of the class of 1910. The Doctor depended entirely upon his own resources in defraying the expenses of his professional education and thus he applied himself with all of earnestness and assiduousness until he had won his coveted degree of Doctor of Medicine. Shortly after his graduation Dr. Lee returned to Gage county, and he has since been engaged in the active and successful practice of his profession at Pickrell. He is an appreciative and popular member of the Gage County Medical Society and holds membership also in the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry, his maximum York Rite affiliation being with the commandery of Knights Templars at Lincoln and his ancient-craft affiliation with Lodge No. 2, at Lincoln. He and his wife are popular figures in the social life of their community and their attractive home, a modern bungalow erected by the Doctor, is a center of gracious hospility.

May 27, 1912, Dr. Dee wedded Miss Cecil Mayer, who was born at Beatrice, this county, where her parents, Joseph and Julia (Meyers) Mayer, still reside, Mr. Mayer being a prominent and influential citizen and having served at one time as mayor of the city. Dr. and Mrs. Lee have one child, Amesbury, Jr., who was born October 6, 1914.

CHARLES A. JACKSON. — The late Charles A. Jackson was one of the early settlers of Beatrice, Nebraska, where for many years he was engaged in the drug business. He came to Gage county, in 1874, from Curran, Illinois. Mr. Jackson was actively identified with the civic and business development of Beatrice and contributed his share to the advancement and upbuilding of the little rural hamlet until it became the beautiful and prosperous little western city of the present day.

Mr. Jackson was born in Canandaigua, New

York, March 2, 1841, and he was reared as the youngest child of a widowed mother. Although he had no father's hand to guide him, his mother gave him good educational advantages and in the old Empire state he grew to adult age. Some time during his early manhood he went to Curran, Illinois, where he held various positions of trust. There, in turn, he taught school, was connected with the general merchandise business, was a railroad station agent, and served as the postmaster of Curran.

After the Civil war there was a great immigation movement trending to the west. In this general emigration from Illinois, Mr. Jackson came to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he and George W. Hinkle formed a partnership and engaged in the drug business. This partnership was dissolved a few years later, and Mr. Jackson continued the enterprise. For more than thirty years he devoted his entire time to the conducting of his prosperous business. After he and his young bride came to Beatrice he built a spacious house, and in this attractive old home Mrs. Jackson still resides. It has withstood effectually the disintegrating influences of the passing of years and, after several remodelings, is now a substantial and essentially modern dwelling. When it was first built it was pointed out as the nicest home in Beatrice. In this home the death of Mr. Jackson occurred September 3, 1907.

At Curran, Illinois, on the 10th of October, 1872, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jackson to Miss Ann Kelly, who was born on a farm near that place and who is a daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Cook) Kelly. Her parents were children at the time when the respective families became numberd among the pioneers of Illinois, the Kellys having come from North Carolina and the Cooks from Tennessee. John Kelly, grandfather of Mrs. Jackson, settled in Illinois in 1819, when that now great and prosperous state was still on the very frontier, and there he bore the full heat and burden of the day as a sterling pioneer who did well his part in the forwarding of the march of civilization and progress. He hewed from the forest the logs with which to build his pioneer cabin, and this was the first log cabin to be erected in what is now the fair capital of Illinois, — the city of Springfield. In May, 1821, was held in this cabin the first session of court in Sangamon county, and the building has consequently been definitely memorialized in the recorded history of Illinois.

In addition to holding for many years a secure place as one of the representative business men and influential citizens of Beatrice, Charles A. Jackson further aided in the advancement of the interests of Gage county, for he became the owner of a valuable landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Filley township. He was a thorough conscientious and successful business man, gave close attention to his business but was always ready to give his influence and co-operation in the support of measures advanced for the general good of his home city and county. He commanded unqualified popular esteem and was one of the honored pioneer citizens of the county at the time of his death. Mrs. Jackson is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson became the parents of two children, but both died in infancy. They adopted three children, and of these the only survivor is Mrs. Alice Park, of Ashgrove, Missouri. Mrs. Park was born near Diller, Gage county, and she became the wife of William Jamison, whose death occurred in 1916. The one child of this union is John Jamison, who now resides in the home of Mrs. Jackson. In October, 1917, Mrs. Alice Jamison became the wife of Walter Park, and they now reside at Ashgrove, Missouri.

WILLIAM KRAMER. — Within the fifty-two years of William Kramer's residence in America he has attained through indefatigable industry a substantial fortune. In these years of earnest endeavor he endured many deprivations and hardships of which the younger generation can have but slight comprehension. Like many other German immigrants to the United States, Mr. Kramer was a poor man

financially when he landed on our hospitable shores, but he was blessed with robust health and strength and was imbued with an ambition to win success in the land of his adoption. He has accomplished his purpose and is now one of the wealthy farmers in Nemaha township, Gage county.

Hanover, Germany, has given many of its industrious, ambitious men to people the United States and dot its fertile lands with houses, barns, silos and herds of cattle. It was in Hanover, Germany, on the 24th day of June, 1848, that William Kramer first saw the light of day. He is a son of Herman and Mary (Tellkamp) Kramer, who were the parents of seven children, — six sons and one daughter. William was the sixth son born and the daughter was the youngest child. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kramer remained in their home country until their death.

In 1866, William Kramer, when only eighteen years of age, heard of the vast opportunities offered in the United States for men of energy and a knowledge of farming, so he left the paternal fireside and took passage on a sailing vessel bound for the New World. The voyage took nearly two months on the slow cumbersome ship of that day, — a voyage that can now be made within six days' time. Mr. Kramer first located in Washington county, Illinois, where he labored as a farm hand. He remained there some time and then went to Menard county, Illinois, where he rented land for nearly eleven years. It was in this county that he married, and there his children were born.

At this time in the world's history Nebraska was fast being settled by men coming from the eastern states, and the men were coming from Illinois in great numbers. Mr. Kramer heard of the vast, fertile lands and decided to come and purchase some of this land. In 1886 he arrived with his family in Nemaha township, Gage county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Section 3. He made all of the improvements on the farm and has set out two or three acres of grove trees. From time to time as he was able, he has added to this original one hundred and sixty acres until he now (1918) owns nine hundred and seventy acres of land in Nemaha township.

When Mr. Kramer chose Wilhelmina Sachtleben as his wife, he chose a woman who has been truly a helpmeet to him. She has worked steadily and faithfully by his side, helping him in all of his plans for the acquiring and improving of their broad acres. Their marriage was solemnized March 18, 1875, in Menard county, Illinois. Mrs. Kramer was born in Germany and upon coming to this country she settled in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kramer have two sons and three daughters: Anna is the wife of Rev. M. Lehnenger, living near Plymouth, Nebraska; John is at home and assists his father in the work and management of the farm; Henry is operating a grain elevator at Firth, Lancaster county; Maggie is the wife of James Ikerd, of Lancaster county; and Minnie is the wife of Fred Hochheim, a farmer in Highland township, Gage county. All of the children have received good educational advantages and are doing well their part in the world's work. They were reared in the Lutheran faith and in their youth the parental home was always open to their friends.

While Mr. Kramer has always been a busy man, he has had time to devote to the interests of the community at large. He was a member of the school board from 1887 to 1914, devoting his energies to the furtherance of the educational advantages of his district. He served as road overseer for some time, and did his work faithfully and well. His political views are in harmony with the principles of the Democratic party and it receives his support. The Kramer farm is known for its fine breed of Short-horn cattle, in which their owner takes a great deal of pride. On his good Nebraska corn he has always fed a great many cattle for market.

WILLIAM R. McKINLEY, who is now living virtually retired, in the city of Beatrice, was a young man of twenty-one years when he came to Gage county, fully forty years ago, and he was long and successfully identi-

fied with farm industry in this section of the state, his experience covering fully the exigencies and labors incidental to reclaiming a pioneer farm. Mr. McKinley is a bachelor and it is a matter of supreme satisfaction and pride to him that he has remained constantly with his loved mother, to whom he has accorded the utmost filial devotion and solicitude and whose gentle presence, after she was venerable in years and in impaired health, rested as a gracious benediction upon him and upon their pleasant home, at 1208 Ella street, Beatrice, until she passed to the life eternal, her death having occurred May 6, 1918.

Mr. McKinley was born at Farmer City, Illinois, on the 20th of July, 1856, and is a son of John Wesley McKinley and Julia (Hays) McKinley, the former of whom likewise was a native of Farmer City, where he was born June 3, 1831, a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of that part of Illinois. John W. McKinley was reared and educated in Illinois and there learned the trade of harnessmaker, but followed farming in that state until his death, he having passed away April 26, 1865. His wife was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, was reared and educated at Bellefontaine, Ohio, and in the winter of 1854-1855 she became a resident of Dewitt county, Illinois, where, July 4, 1855, was solemnized her marriage to John Wesley McKinley, who was in the very prime of his useful manhood at the time of his death. The children of this union were four in number, William R., of this review, being the eldest; the other surviving son, Charles S., who was born October 1, 1858, was taken into the home of his maternal grandparents after the untimely death of his father, and was by them reared and educated, in Illinois: he is now a resident of Fowler, Colorado; and Lincoln and Joseph died in infancy. On the 30th of April, 1868, Mrs. Julia (Hays) McKinley became the wife of Alba C. Turner, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and there they continued to reside until the spring of 1878, when they numbered themselves among the pioneers of Gage county, Nebraska. For three years they maintained their residence in Sicily township, near the village of Blue Springs, and they then purchased eighty acres of land in Section 20, that township. This land, which was unreclaimed and entirely without improvements, challenged their energy and resourcefulness to the fullest extent in the early days, and their original dwelling was a primitive dugout, built in a bank of earth and then boarded up, the domicile having been fourteen by twenty feet in dimensions. Later a tract of forty acres was added to the pioneer farm, and on this old home place the death of Mr. Turner occurred September 11, 1885. The widow and children remained on the farm until 1909, when they removed to the village of Wymore, and four years later removal was made to the city of Beatrice, where the home has since been maintained. After the death of Mr. Turner his widow and her eldest son, William R. McKinley, purchased an adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and thus the farm was made one of the well improved and valuable places of Sicily township, the property being still in possession of the family and being now under the efficient management of Fred H. Turner, a son of the second marriage, he being the elder of the two children of his mother's second marriage and the younger, Lucy, being now the wife of James M. Skinner, of Beatrice. Lucy Turner's first husband was Frank L. Gray and they became the parents of two children — William L. and Nettie, the latter having from infancy been in the home of her maternal grandmother and her devoted "Uncle Will," by whom she was reared to maturity: she was afforded the advantages of the Gage county schools and is now a successful and popular teacher in the public schools of Beatrice. Mr. McKinley, as before stated, constantly remained with his loved mother, who cared for him with the utmost devotion during his childhood and to whom he found it a matter of great satisfaction to pay the tribute of filial love and attention which was so eminently her due in the gracious evening of her long and earnest life. She was born January 19, 1837, and thus was eighty-one years of

age at the time of her death. This gentle and revered pioneer woman had been in impaired health for several years, but her alert mentality enabled her to enjoy the peace and prosperity that attended her and to appreciate the fact that her lines were "cast in pleasant places" in the county in which she endured her full quota of the hardships and trials incidental to pioneer life, her circle of friends having been limited only by that of her acquaintances and she having been tenderly cared for by her devoted son.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Section 33, Adams township, and is successfully engaged in farm enterprise, in which he makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Polled Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Mr. Campbell is a native of Rockford, Illinois, where he was born July 7, 1866, son of George W. Campbell, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. John W. Campbell was two years old when his parents came to Nebraska and established the family home in Gage county. On his father's farm, which has been the home of the family for almost fifty years, he grew to young manhood. Receiving a good education in the schools of Adams, he taught school for two years, readily imparting to others the knowledge he had acquired. As his years and strength increased he assumed more largely the arduous duties and tasks incident to the work on the home farm, and in 1900 he purchased the old home place. Since that time he has directed, with marked progressiveness and success, the varied operations of his excellent farm. On the place substantial improvements have been made by him, and to-day it is one of the most valuable farm properties in Adams township.

On September 18, 1890, was solemnized the marriage of John W. Campbell and Miss Eliza E. Key. Mrs. Campbell was born in Illinois and was a girl of ten years of age when she accompanied her parents to Iowa, where she was reared and educated, and where her marriage occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell became the parents of six children: Darwin H., a machinist and motorcycle instructor, is doing valiant service for his country "somewhere in France"; Edna is deceased; and Otto, Vera, Raymond, and Elvessa remain at the parental home.

Mr. Campbell and his family are members of the Methodist church. In politics he gives his support to the Republican party. He capably served as assessor of his township and for fourteen years he has been secretary of the Adams school, which is the only A-grade normal training high school in the county, outside of Beatrice. Fraternally Mr. Campbell is a Mason and member of the Royal Highlanders. In all things pertaining to the moral, social, and material uplift of his community he is always ready to give his influence and co-operation.

GUY S. ATKINS. — Near the village of Adams, Nebraska, in Section 34, Adams township, may be found Guy S. Atkins, a vigorous young farmer who operates one hundred and sixty acres of land belonging to David F. Bryson. Mr. Atkins was born at Sterling, Johnson county, Nebraska, on the 3d of January, 1893, and is a son of Ulysses Alden Atkins and Harriet C. (McClung) Atkins. Ulysses A. Atkins was born at Minonk, Illinois, May 9, 1862, and he was about nine years old when he came with his parents to Johnson county, Nebraska, where they arrived April 20, 1871. He attended the public schools of Johnson county and assisted his father on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he rented land and began farming on his own account, in Johnson county. In 1889 Mr. Atkins came to Gage county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hooker township. There he remained until 1913, when he sold out and bought eighty acres in Section 1, Hanover township — a property which he still owns. In 1908 Mr. Atkins retired, and he now makes his home in the town of Adams, where he owns a comfortable residence property. On December 25, 1882, Ulysses A. Atkins was united in marriage to Miss Harriet C. McClung, a daughter of Alexander and Jane

(Matthews) McClung, and of this union were born six children: Cora is the wife of Harry Hillman, of Adams, this county; Viva is deceased; Ruth is an art teacher at Vancouver, Washington; Guy S. is the subject of this review; and Harold and Alden J. reside at Adams.

Guy S. Atkins was educated in the public schools of Adams, and he followed farming with his father until 1909. In 1910 he rented land on Section 34, Adams township, where he now lives. On June 13th, 1911, Mr. Atkins was united in marriage to Miss Velma L. Bryson, eldest daughter of David F. and Martha Bryson, of whom record will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Atkins are the parents of four children, Rome Belmont, Polly Madge, Valeria Juanita, and Arline Genevieve.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkins are members of the Methodist church of Adams, and in politics Mr. Atkins is an independent voter who casts his ballot for the man rather than for the party.

ALBERT O. ULRICH. — This successful and representative farmer of Gage county may well consider that his "lines are cast in pleasant places," for independence and prosperity have crowned his energetic endeavors and he is the owner of a model farm estate of two hundred and forty acres in Section 18, Grant township, as well as three hundred and twenty acres in Deuel county, this state.

Mr. Ulrich was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on the 12th of March, 1870, and is a son of Charles G. and Johannah (Graff) Ulrich, who came to Gage county, Nebraska, when the subject of this review was a lad of twelve years, more specific mention of the parents being incidentally given on other pages of this work, as the family has been one closely and worthily identified with civic enterprise and industrial activities in this county. Albert O. Ulrich acquired his early education in the schools of his native state and later continued his studies in the district schools of Gage county, where he was reared on the home farm of his father, in Grant township. He has not found it expedient or a matter of inclination to sever his active association with farm enterprise in the succeeding years and he purchased his present attractive farm in Grant township in 1903. Here his progressiveness and cumulative success are shown not only in the general thrift that characterizes all parts of the farm but also in the splendid improvements which he has made, including the erection of a handsome and modern house of ten rooms, placed on a fine site in the center of a field and one and one-half miles distant from the village of Dewitt, Saline county. On the place Mr. Ulrich has erected also a large barn of modern type, as well as minor farm buildings. He utilizes in his agricultural and stock-raising operations the best of modern accessories and has proved himself a leader in farm enterprise in this part of the county.

Mr. Ulrich is a stalwart advocate of the cause of the Republican party and his ability and popularity marked him as specially eligible when he was made his party's candidate for treasurer of Grant township, an office to which he was elected in 1914. Later he was elected for a second term, and he is giving a careful and effective administration of the fiscal affairs of the township. Both he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church and their attractive home is known for its generous hospitality and good cheer.

October 6, 1897, recorded the marriage of Mr. Ulrich to Miss Laura M. Meyer, who was born in Marshall county, Illinois, a daughter of Edward and Emma (Hanan) Meyer, the former of whom is deceased and the latter of whom resides on the old home farm in Adams county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich have six children, all of whom are, in 1918, still members of the happy home circle, namely: Meta, Carl, Edward, Gertrude, Johannah, and Herbert.

MAURICE KIRBY. — Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kirby have a valuable farm estate of three hundred and twenty acres in Sicily township, and for nearly thirty years they

have been identified with the agricultural life of their community. They are both natives of the Emerald Isle, that land of bouyant and generous people who have for so many years tried to get their rights and freedom as a free-governing people, but who are still under the rulership of England.

Maurice Kirby was born January 1, 1852, in County Limerick, Ireland, and is the only child born to Maurice and Johanna (O'Malley) Kirby, who passed their entire lives in Ireland, where the father devoted his active life to tilling the soil. When Maurice Kirby was nineteen years of age he left his aged parents and set out to see the world. Coming to America, he first settled in Detroit, Michigan. He there remained only a short time and then went to Pennsylvania, where he was employed for six years as a stone cutter.

In 1878 Mr. Kirby came to Gage county, Nebraska, and for fifteen years thereafter he was foreman of John Fitzgerald's ranch. In 1889 he purchased his present three hundred and twenty acres of land in Sicily township, but he did not establish his residence on the place until March 9, 1898.

February 7, 1887, holy wedlock united the lives of Maurice Kirby and Ellen Quinn. Mrs. Kirby was born in Ireland, and is a daughter of Patrick and Alice (Hawley) Quinn, who were tillers of the soil, and who, no doubt, experienced the oppression incidental to the landlord system by which England has handicapped the toilers of Ireland. While her people have been oppressed, Ireland has not lost her individuality or her propensity for fun and wit. Two brothers and one sister of Mrs. Kirby make their home in the United States — John Quinn and Maurice Quinn, the latter a machinist living at Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Margaret, wife of Charles Harms, of Omaha, Nebraska.

Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, and of the number seven are living: Alice is a stenographer, employed in the city of Omaha; Johanna is a clerk in Neumann's store at Wymore; Maurice William remains on the home farm; and Ed J. and Ella (twins), John and Jeannette are all under the parental roof and attending school.

Mr. Kirby has a nice residence and other farm buildings, and his place is fully equipped with the necessary farm machinery and implements. His vote is given to the Democratic party, he has served his township as treasurer and is now its efficient road overseer. Both he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church, in the faith of which they were reared, even as they are rearing their children in the same faith.

JOSEPH H. SCHEVE. — In the all important domain of basic industry Mr. Scheve is consistently to be designated as one of the foremost agriculturists and stock-growers of his native county, where he is the owner of a splendidly improved landed estate of seven hundred and sixty acres, his attractive homestead farm being eligibly situated in Section 22, Blakely township, and comprising three hundred and twenty acres. Under the able supervision of Mr. Scheve is conducted the cultivation of fully one thousand acres of the excellent land of Gage county, the same being devoted primarily to the raising of wheat, corn, oats, and alfalfa.

On the old homestead that is now his place of residence Joseph H. Scheve was born March 20, 1882, and he is a son of John and Marie (Meyer) Scheve, of whose eleven children he is the third in order of birth of five now living; Anna is the wife of John Meyer, of Thayer county, this state; Henry is a representative farmer of Jefferson county; Martha resides in the home of her sister Amanda, who is the youngest of the children and who is the wife of John Kuchenbecker, of Ruskin, Nuckolls county, Nebraska.

John Scheve was a native of Germany, where he was born April 28, 1842, and where he was reared and educated. About the year 1865 he came from his native land to the United States and settled in Bremer county, Iowa, where he worked two years as a farm hand, besides showing his ambition by studying English and other branches under the preceptorship of a leading teacher in that section of the Hawkeye state. In the autumn of 1867, the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood, Mr. Scheve came to

MR. AND MRS. JOHN SCHEVE

Gage county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unbroken prairie land in what is now Blakely township. He lived up to the full tension of the pioneer life, and in this connection it may incidentally be recorded that in the early days he aided in fighting prairie fires on the site now occupied by the postoffice building in the city of Beatrice. He managed to provide himself with an ox team, and this he used in the breaking of his land, as well as in other farm activities. While this work was in progress he found diversion by an occasional friendly game of cards with other pioneers, and his genial and kindly nature gained to him the lasting friendship of those with whom he came in contact in both the early and later days. John Scheve was a man of sterling character and his energy and persistence were on a parity with his resolute purpose. He labored early and late in reclaiming and improving his farm, and his early crops were taken overland to Nebraska City, which was then the nearest market point. He added from time to time to his landed possessions and became eventually one of the most substantial and progressive farmers of the county. He had mature judgment and understood the true values of Nebraska land, so that he accumulated property of this kind not only in Gage county but also in Jefferson county, and in Cheyenne county, Kansas, his landed estate at the time of his death having comprised two thousand seven hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Scheve was a leader in the civic as well as the industrial development and upbuilding of Gage county, was called upon to serve in various minor offices of public trust and was unwavering in his allegiance to the Republican party. Both he and his wife were most earnest and devout communicants of the German Lutheran church and he was the organizer of the church of this denomination in his precinct. He continued to reside on his attractive old homestead, the present abiding place of his son Joseph, of this review, until his death, which occurred October 9, 1911, only a few months prior to his seventieth birthday anniversary, his cherished and devoted wife having passed away on the 9th of the preceding July, so that in death these honored pioneers were not long divided, Mrs. Scheve having been born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 15th of June, 1841, and having preceded her husband to eternal rest by exactly one month. Their engagement to be married was formed in Germany, but not until about 1866 did Mrs. Scheve find it expedient to come to America and join her fiance, their marriage having been solemnized in Iowa, shortly prior to their coming to the new state of Nebraska.

On the old homestead farm which he now occupies and which came as his heritage at the time of the death of his parents, Joseph H. Scheve was reared to manhood, and in addition to receiving in his youth the advantages of the public schools of his native county he completed a course in the Northwestern Business College, at Beatrice. He has gained precedence as one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists and stockgrowers of the younger generation in Gage county and has made his homestead place a veritable model. In addition to remodeling and enlarging the substantial house erected by his father he has erected on the place two modern silos and made other excellent improvements of permanent order, including the building of large sheds for the care of his cattle. He is giving special attention to the breeding of shorthorn cattle, and in the season of 1917 has had upon his farm twenty-five head of purebred stock of this type.

Mr. Scheve has marked his appreciation of the advantages and attractions of his native county by his unfaltering civic loyalty and his productive activities along industrial lines. He has taken active part in public affairs of a local order and has held some manner of township office almost continuously since he attained to his legal majority. He is now serving as treasurer of Blakely township, of which office he became the incumbent in 1915. He is one of the stockholders in the coöperative farmers' grain elevator in the village of Hoag. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church.

May 7, 1908, recorded the marriage of Mr. Scheve to Miss Maria Wollenburg, who likewise was born and reared in Gage county, she being a daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Meyer) Wollenburg, who were born in Germany and who became pioneers of Blakely township, Gage county, where Mr. Wollenburg reclaimed and improved the old homestead farm on which his widow still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Scheve have four children — Josephine, Edward, Alvin, and William.

In a reminiscent way it may be stated that the father of Mr. Scheve was a man of exceptional physical strength and weighed more than two hundred pounds, though he was remarkably alert and vigorous. He purchased and placed in operation on his farm one of the first self-raking harvesting machines introduced into Gage county, and on one occasion when he had the harvester in commission he was caused some disquietude when a band of fifteen hundred Indians gathered at his farm to witness the marvelous working of the machine. The Indians were on their way to the west and at first their appearance on the scene caused some consternation to Mr. Scheve, but in their gutteral language and by their sign language they assured him of their friendship, as well as their curiosity, and they finally passed on without molesting him in the least. He and a man named Harvey were associated in the buying, ownership, and operation of the first threshing machine ever used in this county.

MRS. SARAH J. EASTMAN is one of the loved pioneer women of Gage county, and is a sister of Hugh J. Dobbs, the author of this history. A record of the family appears elsewhere in this volume.

In December, 1880, Miss Sarah Dobbs became the wife of Matthew Weaverling, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1845, and who became a resident of Nebraska in 1869, when he settled in Lancaster county. In 1875 he came to Gage county, where he became one of the early-day school teachers. In 1878 he was elected county superintendent of schools, and by re-election he held this office six years. In 1883 he bought and removed to a farm near Barneston, and soon afterward he purchased the Barneston *Star*, of which he continued the editor and publisher until his death, which occurred April 18, 1895.

Mr. Weaverling was a prominent figure in the educational, political, and social life of his adopted county. He was a member and an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church. Concerning the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Weaverling the following brief record is entered: Ray W. Weaverling is a traveling salesman for a hardware concern and lives at Huron, South Dakota. He married Miss Alice Parker, of Beatrice, and they have three children — Ralph W., Robbin Dale, and Carrol Louise. Charles S. Weaverling died in the year 1912. Ralph E. Weaverling, a graduate of the law department of the University of Nebraska, class of 1910, is successfully practicing his profession at North Bend, this state. He married Miss Beatrice Moffit, of Lincoln, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, and they have two children, Eleanor and Ralph W.

October 1, 1901, Mrs. Weaverling became the wife of Leonard A. Eastman, a native of Minnesota. He is engaged in brick and cement contracting. By a former marriage he had four children: Grace M., Guy B., Roy L., and Hazel. These are all at home except Roy L., who is in the United States Army and now in active service in France. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman are held in high esteem in Beatrice, where they have an attractive home at 1401 High street.

JAMES H. FREEMAN is a native son of Gage county, a scion of one of its foremost pioneer families, and in his individual versatility he has been successful along varied lines of productive endeavor. At the present time he is one of the leading real-estate dealers engaged in business in the city of Beatrice, his operations being of broad scope and importance and having included effective service in promoting desirable immigration not only into Nebraska, Missouri, and Texas, but also into the Canadian northwest.

The pages of this publication in which is outlined the general history of Gage county give due consideration to the interesting fact that the first tract of land entered under the provisions of the United States homestead act was that obtained in Gage county by the late Daniel Freeman, father of him whose name initiates this review, and on this first homestead thus obtained James H. Freeman was born February 27, 1870, a son of Daniel and Agnes (Suiter) Freeman. However, there is consistency in amplifying the data by incorporating in this article, with minor elimination and paraphrase, quotations from an old-time issue of the Beatrice *Daily and Weekly Express*:

"One of the events connected with the early settlement of Gage county, and one which will eventually form a page of national history, is the taking up of the homestead of Daniel Freeman, the first under the homestead act passed by the United States congress. The securing of the first homestead, or the filing of the first application, by Mr. Freeman was more by accident than design. The homestead act was approved on the 20th of May, 1862, and took effect January 1, 1863. In July, 1862, Mr. Freman purchased a 'squatter's right,' which he held until the 31st day of December following. The government land office was located at Brownville, and on December 31st Mr. Freeman went to that place to make an entry and file his application under the homestead law. At this time he had been regularly enlisted in the United States army, and was in Nebraska Territory on special duty. He was under orders to report to headquarters and was therefore in some haste to file his application. While at the hotel in Brownville he was introduced to a young man who was to be clerk or assistant to the land-office receiver. By this young man Mr. Freeman was informed that the next day being New Year's, and consequently a holiday, the office would not be open. Mr. Freeman stated the urgency of his business and that he was ordered to report to the army headquarters without delay, after which he said that it would be a great accommodation to him if he could file his application before leaving for the army. Upon this representation, made on the evening of his arrival at Brownville, Mr. Freeman met with exceptional consideration, as the clerk sent for the register of the land office and before 12:05 o'clock on the morning of January 1st Mr. Freeman had made his filing on the first homestead ever taken under the homestead act."

The above mentioned entry was recorded in the archives of the United States land office in the city of Washington on the 6th of January, 1870, after Nebraska had attained to the dignity of statehood, and is filed as "Homestead certificate No. 1, application No. 1." The homestead of one hundred and sixty acres thus distinguished above all others in American annals is situated in Section 26, town 4 north, of range 5 east of the sixth principal meridian, and about four miles west of Beatrice, which city was a frontier village at the time when Mr. Freeman made the historic entry. The homestead, in the valley of Cub creek, became the nucleus of the extensive and valuable landed estate which Mr. Freeman eventually accumulated and improved in Gage county.

Daniel Freeman was born in Preble county, Ohio, April 26, 1826, and his death occurred December 30, 1908. He was a son of Samuel and Phoebe (Willis) Freeman, natives respectively of Vermont and Ohio, and in 1835 the family home was established at Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois, where Samuel Freeman became a citizen of prominence and influence: he was a successful merchant and also developed a prosperous enterprise in the extending of financial loans, his operations having included loaning money to the government at the time of the Civil war. Samuel Freeman died in Knox county, Illinois, February 6, 1887, one of its most honored pioneers, and his widow survived him by a number of years.

Daniel Freeman, second in a family of six sons and one daughter, was about ten years old at the time of the family removal from Ohio to Knox county, Illinois, in which state he was reared and educated. Concerning him the following interesting statements have been made:

"About the time of the Civil war he became connected with the interests of the government, and was sent to the west and southwest. While thus engaged he traveled over a large portion of the undeveloped western country, becoming one of the most familiar characters of this section. He was peculiarly adapted for coming in contact with unruly frontiermen and the native Indians, nature having endowed him with an unusually commanding physique, the nobility of which was heightened by his military bearing, the while his keen black eye seemed to penetrate through hidden things. For weeks at a time he rode over the wilds of the west, acting as a watch against the wary Indians, leaving his saddle only to obtain food and sleep and making the saddle his pillow as he slept on the hard ground. Such was the character of his experience that he had a wide range of information and an unlimited knowledge of the country in which he took up his permanent residence before the close of the war." Mr. Freeman reclaimed and developed one of the large and valuable landed estates of Gage county and was to the close of his long and useful life numbered among the honored and influential pioneer citizens of the county. His service as a soldier in the Civil war covered a period of three years, during which he was a member of the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In 1864 he established his permanent home on his historic claim in Gage county and there he maintained his residence many years, the while he bore his full share of the responsibilities and trials incidental to pioneer life. He served two terms as sheriff of the county, and also held the offices of coroner and justice of the peace. His was a noble figure in the history of the county, the territory and the state, and every record touching Gage county should pay to his memory a tribute of honor. His political support was given to the Democratic party and he and his wife were earnest and tolerant in their abiding Christian faith and practice.

The first marriage of Mr. Freeman was to Miss Elizabeth Wilber, whose death occurred in 1861, at Rock Island, Illinois. She was survived by three children, — Julia F., Charles and Loretta, the last named becoming the wife of Martin Rich. February 8, 1865, recorded the marriage of Mr. Freeman to Miss Agnes Suiter, of Scott county, Iowa, where she was born and reared, the date of her nativity having been November 16, 1843. This revered pioneer woman still resides in Gage county and owns the fine old homestead place which her husband secured in the early territorial days, as previously noted, the same being in Blakely township. Mrs. Freeman is a daughter of John and Eliza (Wright) Suiter, who were numbered among the early settlers of Scott county, Iowa, the farmer's father, Philip Suiter, having settled at LeClaire, that county, when the place was a mere Indian village, the same having been named in honor of Antoine LeClaire, who was Indian agent to the Sac and Fox tribes. Mrs. Freeman received good educational advantages in her youth and after coming with her husband to Gage county she had the distinction of being the first teacher in Blakely township, her first school having been held in a private house. Of the children of Daniel and Agnes (Suiter) Freeman all are living except Daniel, who died at the age of three years; Eliza is the wife of D. Webster Carre, of Beatrice; Samuel is a prosperous farmer in Jefferson county; James H., of this review, was the next in order of birth; John is a substantial farmer near Beatrice; Frank and LeClaire remain with their widowed mother on the fine old homestead farm; and Agnes is the wife of Clifford Quackenbush, another of the progressive farmers of this county.

James H. Freeman passed the period of his childhood and early youth on the old home farm and in the meanwhile profited by the advantages afforded in the public schools. After leaving the parental home he was for a time identified with newspaper work at Beatrice, and thereafter he gave six months to the reading of law. Later he took up the study of medicine and he so fortified himself that though he did not receive a medical diploma he was engaged in successful practice four years. For the past decade he has been one of the most aggressive and influential expon-

ents of the real-estate business in Beatrice, and his operations now extend to wide limits, as noted in an earlier paragraph of this article. As a business man and public-spirited citizen he is well upholding in Gage county the honors of the family name, and his political allegiance is given to the Democratic party. It is a matter of record that no other man in Beatrice has handled and sold as large an amount of land as has Mr. Freeman, and he is an authority in all details pertaining to the real-estate business.

In 1891 Mr. Freeman wedded Miss Lelah Hare, who was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a daughter of William N. and Eliza Hare, who came to Nebraska in 1879 and settled at Pawnee, Mr. Hare having been an architect by profession. Of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Freeman three are living: Laura is the wife of T. J. Long, who is engaged in the drug business at Mitchell, South Dakota; Alice is a popular teacher in the public schools of that place; and Bobbie Josephine remains at the parental home, she being at the time of this writing a student in the public schools of Beatrice.

FRANK N. HOFFSTAEDT has the intellectual attainments and business acumen which make possible the effective accomplishment of results along any line in which he may direct his energies, and none can doubt his progressiveness and leadership as an exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry in the state that has been his home since his young manhood. Here he is the owner of one of the fine landed estates of this section of Nebraska, and the same comprises four hundred acres, — two hundred and forty in Highland township and one hundred and sixty in Section 13, Clatonia township. His homestead place, of eighty acres, is one of the best improved and most attractive rural demesnes in the county and is situated in Section 18, Highland township. This is a part of the estate locally known as the old Uplinger ranch, and here Mr. Hoffstaedt has made the best of modern improvements, including the erection, in 1900, of his handsome residence, which in facilities and appointments, as well as architectural design and construction, is of the most modern type. Mr. Hoffstaedt gives special attention to the breeding and raising of short-horn cattle and is equally vigorous and progressive in directing the agricultural department of his farm enterprise. He is a stockholder and director of the Farmers' State Bank at Clatonia and is essentially one of the influential and representative citizens of the county.

Mr. Hoffstaedt was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, August 2, 1855, and is the eldest in a family of seven children; George W. died at Lincoln, Nebraska; Theresa became the wife of J. P. Ticknor and is now deceased; Addie is the wife of J. I. Kemp, of Omaha; Frederick J. is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona; Anna is the wife of Eugene Richardson and they reside in the city of Omaha; and David died in Pasadena, California. Frederick Hoffstaedt, father of the subject of this review, was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1822, and was a resident and honored pioneer of Lancaster county, Nebraska, at the time of his death, in 1895. He came to America when a young man and first settled in Winnebago county, Illinois. Later he became a pioneer in Minnesota, where he entered a homestead claim. He perfected his title to this homestead and after having there given his attention to farming for a few years, he continued his active alliance with farm industry in Winnebago county, Illinois, until 1882, when he came with his family to Nebraska and established his home in Lancaster county. There he reclaimed and improved a productive farm and there he continued his residence until his death. His wife, whose maiden name was Gertrude Hauser, likewise was a native of Germany, and she passed to the life eternal in Lancaster county, and was about sixty-three years of age at the time of her death.

Frank N. Hoffstaedt was reared to adult age in his native county, where he early learned the varied details of farm work and where he acquired his preliminary education in the district schools. In 1876 he entered Northwestern College, at Naperville, Illinois, and in this excellent institution he continued his higher academic studies three years. In 1878 he came

to Lincoln, Nebraska, and in Lancaster county he found exigent demand for his services as a teacher in the district schools. His success in the pedagogic profession was unequivocal and he continued as a teacher in the district schools for a period of ten years, in the meanwhile becoming successfully identified with farm enterprise. He continued his residence in Lancaster county until 1892, when he came to Gage county and purchased a farm three miles north of Clatonia. Three years later he purchased his present fine homestead farm, and his success is attested not only in his possession of a large and valuable landed estate but also in the admirable improvements which he has made on his property. From the time of coming to Nebraska Mr. Hoffstaedt served consecutively as a member of the school board until 1914, and has served in other official positions in both Lancaster and Gage counties. He takes deep interest in all things touching the well-being of his home county and state and is well fortified in his opinions concerning economic and governmental polity. He has given effective campaign service in behalf of the Republican party but has manifested no ambition for political preferment of an official order. He is a stockholder of the Farmers' Grain & Coal Company of Cortland, which operates the modern elevator in that village and also conducts a substantial business in the handling of coal and lumber. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hallam and he is a trustee of the same.

August 2, 1887, recorded the marriage of Mr. Hoffstaedt to Miss Diena Schmidt, who is a daughter of the late Jergen and Etta Schmidt, of whom incidental mention is made on other pages, especially in connection with the sketch of the career of John Carstens, who married their daughter Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffstaedt became the parents of five children: Harold died at the age of five years; Roy and Etta remain at the parental home; Esther died at the age of ten years; and Estella is the youngest member of the gracious home circle. Miss Etta Hoffstaedt was graduated in the Beatrice high school, and in 1918 she is a member of the senior class in Central Wesleyan College, at Warrenton, Missouri.

WEITJE G. COOPER owns and resides upon a fine farm estate of three hundred and twenty acres, and his attractive home is in Section 36, Nemaha township. He is essentially one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of this part of the county and has given special attention to the breeding and feeding of live stock for the market.

Mr. Cooper was born in Atchison county, Missouri, on the 4th of March, 1874, and is a son of Gerd and Rixtie (Harms) Cooper, of whose thirteen children three died in infancy. Concerning the other children the following brief data are available: John is deceased, Thomas is a resident of Atchison county, Missouri; Mrs. Tillie Bowers lives in the vicinity of Filley, Gage county, Nebraska; Herman is deceased; Eilert remains in Atchison county, Missouri; Weitje G., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Heibie is the wife of J. Heyen, a farmer near Filley, this county; John resides in Atchison county, Missouri; George maintains his home in Gage county, Nebraska; and Rosa is deceased.

Gerd Cooper, father of him whose name introduces this review, was born in Straukhault, Germany, on the 13th of January, 1837, and in his native land he was identified with farm enterprise until, as a young man, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Johnson county, Nebraska, in the early pioneer days. Later he removed to Atchison county, Missouri, where he passed the remained of his life, his death having occurred June 13, 1907. A man of energy and ability, he achieved definite success and at the time of his death he was the owner of a large and valuable landed estate. On the 14th of March, 1861, was solemnized the marriage of Gerd Cooper to Miss Rixtie Harms, who was born in Hanover, Germany, February 28, 1844, and who survived her husband by a period of seven years, she having been summoned to the life eternal on the 12th of June, 1914.

Weitje G. Cooper was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and received the advan-

tages of the public schools. He remained at the parental home until 1895, when he began farming on his own account, in which enterprise he rented land from his father, in Atchison county, Missouri. There he continued his activities until 1905, when he came to Nebraska and purchased two hundred and forty acres of partially improved land in Gage county. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, showing that he had added to his original holdings in Nemaha township, and in the developing and improving of this valuable farm estate he has shown splendid enterprise and progressiveness. In 1915 he erected his present handsome farm house, which contains nine rooms and which is modern in architectural design, as well as in all appointments and equipments. The house is heated by furnace, has circulating hot and cold water, and is supplied with its own system of lighting, by acetylene gas.

March 4, 1895, recorded the marriage of Mr. Cooper to Miss Anna Heyen, who likewise is a native of Atchison county, Missouri, where she was born October 1, 1873. She is a daughter of Heye J. and Gobke (Heyen) Heyen. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have four children, — Heiko, Frank, Freda and John.

In politics Mr. Cooper gives his allegiance to the Democratic party and in his civic relations he is liberal and public-spirited. He is now serving as a member of the school board of his district, and he and his wife are commuicants of the German Lutheran church.

HERMAN WEIBE has been a resident of Gage county since 1894 and is a brother of Gerhard Weibe, of whom specific mention is made on other pages, with adequate review of the family history. Mr. Weibe is the owner of a fine farm property in Midland township and is a substantial and honored citizen who well merits recognition in this history. He was born in the province of Danzig, Prussia, February 3, 1850, and acquired his early education in the schools of the city of Danzig. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Russia, and there he was identified with the general merchandise business for a quarter of a century. In this enterprise he was associated with his brother Gerhard and he came to Nebraska in 1894. In 1896 he purchased his present finely improved farm estate, of two hundred and eighty acres, where he is living virtually retired, his sons having the active management of the farm, which they rent. Unqualified success has attended the activities of Mr. Weibe as one of the progressive exponents of farm industry in this county, and he has given his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-growing, besides having developed a prosperous dairy enterprise, with a fine herd of Holstein cows. He has erected modern buildings on his farm and the attractive home is one of the model rural residences of the county. In political matters he is independent, and he and his family are active members of the Mennonite church.

In 1875 Mr. Weibe married Miss Wilhelmina Hein, and she died in Russia, in 1882, the two surviving children being John, who is associated in the management of the home farm, and Mary, who is the wife of Franz Albrecht, a farmer residing eight miles west of Beatrice. In 1885 Mr. Weibe contracted a second marriage, when Miss Gertrude Epp became his wife, she likewise having been born in Germany. Of the children of this union brief record is given in conclusion of this article: Herman is a successful school-teacher in the fine Mennonite institution known as Bethel College, at Newton, Kansas, his education having included courses in the University of Nebraska, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois; Jacob is one of the lessees of his father's farm property; Gertrude is the wife of Aaron Claassen, a farmer ten miles south of Beatrice; Elizabeth remains at the parental home; William and Ernest are associated in the operation of the home farm; and Helena and Katie likewise are at home, though both are, in 1918, students in the Beatrice high school.

FRANK M. BARMORE. — One of the early settlers of Gage county, and one who was numbered among the most respected and honored citizens of the community in which

he lived was Frank M. Barmore. Mr. Barmore was born at Buchanan, Berrien county, Michigan, on the 11th of September, 1862, and was a son of Horace C. and Mary (Curtis) Barmore. Horace C. Barmore was born in New York state, in December, 1829, and moved to Michigan when a young man. There, in the pioneer days, he worked in the making of potash. In 1859 was recorded the marriage of Horace C. Barmore and Mary Curtis, of Michigan, and to this union were born six children: Carrie B. resides in the city of Chicago; Frank M. is the subject of this memoir; William A. is a resident of Texas; Charles L. and Walter H. live in Gage county, Nebraska, as does also Florence, who is the wife of Perry Disher. In the fall of 1863, Horace C. Barmore started west and he and his family arrived in Gage county, Nebraska, on December 4th of that year. He took a homestead in Section 33, Adams township, and lived on the place a number of years. His death occurred at Adams, in 1889. At one time Mr. Barmore was engaged in freighting across the plains from Nebraska City to Fort Kearney. His widow survived him by many years, and passed away in 1911. Her father came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1860, and here he took a homestead, besides which he built the first house ever erected in the town of Adams, this county. He passed to the life eternal in 1876.

Frank M. Barmore was united in marriage September 9, 1886, to Miss Mollie O. Bryson, a daughter of Silas and Clarinda (Young) Bryson, of whom a record will be found on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Barmore became the parents of three sons and five daughters, as follows: Melvin C., of Adams, this county; John W., of Chicago; Mrs. Ray Braddock, of Filley, Gage county; Mrs. Clay Campbell, of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Irene, Eunice, Lora and Eugene, at home with the widowed mother. The husband and father passed away on the 1st of March, 1916. The following extract is taken from a notice which appeared in the Adams paper at the time of Mr. Barmore's death: "Frank M. Barmore was born in Buchanan, Berrien county, Michigan, September 11, 1862. The following fall he was brought by his parents to this vicinity, then a part of Nebraska Territory, reaching the Nemaha, December 4, 1863. His boyhood was spent on the family homestead southwest of Adams, where he grew to manhood, getting his schooling in books in the district school, and in the sterner school of work and experience he studied on his father's farm, where he and his younger brother Will, much earlier than most boys, shouldered a large share of the men's work and responsibility, because of a lame father, who was unable to follow a team or do many of the other tasks on a farm. He was married September 9, 1886, to Miss Mollie C. Bryson, who had been a girlhood friend and schoolmate. In this neighborhood they built a home, which was ever a bright center of love and confidence to the family and of cheery hospitality to friends and acquaintances. Mr. Barmore belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church of which he was ever a faithful and consistent member. His faith in Christ cheered and sustained him, and remained bright and clear as his physical powers failed. His death brings deep sorrow not only to the family group but also to a wide circle of friends, many of whom have known him from boyhood, and none knew him but to esteem him more highly as the years passed by. He was one of nature's noblemen in the truest sense, — brave, generous, manly, his was the soul of honor and his friends and friendships were sacred to him."

Mrs. Barmore makes her home in the community where she was born and reared and where she and her husband spent most of the years of their married life.

OTIS B. HEFFELFINGER. — Of the business men and farmers in Gage county none is more worthy of consideration in this history than Otis B. Heffelfinger, business man, and live-stock dealer. Mr. Heffelfinger was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, on January 5, 1881, a son of Bell M. and Louise (Wagner) Heffelfinger, of whom a record will be found in other pages of this volume. (See

MRS. ALBERT BEDNAR

ALBERT BEDNAR

sketch of Ray C. Heffelfinger). The subject of this review came to Nebraska with his parents in 1887, at the age of six years. Their first home in the west was at Grand Island, Nebraska, and later in Adams county, where they remained only a short time before coming to Beatrice. Mr. Heffelfinger received his education in the public schools of Beatrice, and thereafter he was associated with his father in meat-market enterprise, and also in farming and stock-raising until his father's death. Since that time he has conducted the farming and stock business on his own account, and he is associated with H. L. Goble in the meat-market business in the city of Beatrice, where they do a large business in both wholesale and retail lines. Near the city of Beatrice, Mr. Heffelfinger is the owner of a small tract of land, where he has his home, and where he conducts his live-stock activities. He feeds each year a large number of both cattle and hogs for the market, and is making a great success of his chosen occupation. The meat market is conducted under the firm name of Goble & Heffelfinger.

On January 15, 1901, Mr. Heffelfinger was united in marriage to Miss Effie Veon a daughter of John and Hulda (Burner) Veon, of Beatrice, Nebraska, and to this union have been born six children, — Gussie L., Robert L., Marion B., Belle M., Harold E., and Ruth E. — all of whom are at the parental home.

Mrs. Heffelfinger has three brothers and one sister, as follows: John, of Oxford, Nebraska; Henry, and Russell, both of Beatrice; and Laura, wife of Herbert Palmer, of Beatrice.

In politics Mr. Heffelfinger is a Republican, but he has never sought public office, preferring to give his whole time and attention to his business. Mr. and Mrs. Heffelfinger have a beautiful little home in the south part of the city of Beatrice and have hosts of friends in the community in which they live.

ALBERT BEDNAR. — In 1876, the year that marked the centennial of the national independence of the United States, Albert Bednar and his wife numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Nebraska. They first located temporarily near Wilber, the county seat of Saline county, and in the spring of 1880 established themselves on an embryonic farm near the town of Wymore, Gage county — on what had but recently been a part of the Otoe and Missouri Indian reservation. Here Mr. Bednar, with the help of his wife and family, reclaimed from the untrammeled prairie a fertile farm. Not a furrow had been turned on the land and no improvements of any kind had been made. The coyote and the Indian were the only habitues It was truly virgin soil.

Undaunted by the prospects, Mr. Bednar, with a yoke of oxen and a breaking plow broke sod, built a sod house for his family, and then turned vigorously to the reclaiming and cultivation of his pioneer farm. He soon came to be one of the representative exponents of agricultural industry in his community. His energy and good management brought to him a generous measure of success in his passing years. Through his well directed activities he eventually not only accumulated a large and valuable landed estate in Gage county, but in all of the relations of life he so ordered his course as to merit and receive the unqualified confidence and good will of his fellow men. He contributed his full share to the civic and industrial development of the county; took a loyal interest in all matters touching its communal welfare, but never sought or desired public office. In his political views he was non-partisan. His early religious faith was that of the Catholic church, but on coming to America he did not affiliate with any church.

Albert Bednar was born April 23, 1837, in Pistina, Bohemia. By trade he was a skilled cabinetmaker. He was actively engaged in his vocation while in Bohemia, but after coming to America he devoted almost his entire time to farming and stock-raising. In August, 1863, was solemnized his marriage to Johanna Peroutka. It was a matter of great gratification to Mr. Bednar that he lived to celebrate his golden wedding anniversary, an occasion on which the children, grandchildren,

and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Bednar united to pay the aged couple a lasting and well deserved tribute.

In 1908 this honored pioneer, having already accumulated a competency, his health failing him, left, though somewhat reluctantly, the farm in Sicily township that had been the home for over a quarter of a century — the farm which by his labor he had converted from raw prairie into fertile fields, the farm where he had witnessed his children grow to manhood and womanhood — and removed to the village of Odell. Here were spent the closing years of his life and on the 21st day of September, 1914, he passed away — a man who had accounted well for himself to the world in which he lived and labored to goodly ends. He is buried in the Odell cemetery.

His widow, Mrs. Johanna Bednar, now venerable in years, was born in Hatina, Bohemia, in 1840. Since the death of her husband she makes her home with one of their sons, Peter Bednar, near Barneston, Nebraska. To her thrift, industry, and undaunted courage much credit is due for her husband's success and prosperity. With a family of six little children she braved the perils of an ocean voyage from the old world to the new, and endured the many subsequent hardships incident to pioneer life. Her's is the distinction of being the mother of ten children, nine of whom she reared to manhood and womenhood. Felix, a son, died in infancy, in November, 1876, and is buried in Saline county; Lillie died September 28, 1891; Theresa, who later became the wife of Frank Zaribnicky, died March 10, 1894; Frances, later Mrs. Vincent Marek, died February 26, 1917; Ferdinand, the oldest member of the family, is a prosperous farmer in Sicily township; Mary, the widow of Milton Prebyl, resides on her farm near Barneston, Nebraska; Carrie is the wife of Joseph Krotz, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work; Peter is a substantial farmer near Barneston, Nebraska; and Emanuel is similarly engaged near Wymore, Nebraska. James E. is engaged in the practice of law in the city of Omaha, and is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume.

WILLIAM N. REVIS. — While not a native born Nebraskan, Mr. Revis says that in all his life he never tilled better land than can be found in Gage county. After a residence of one year in Lancaster county, he came to Adams township, Gage county. The work of subduing the prairies was so hard and the food so scarce this first summer that Mr. Revis gave out completely. He continued his stay in Gage county eight years, then he returned to Illinois. He was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, October 9, 1855, a son of Ewen and Jane (Greer) Revis. Ewen Revis was born in Kentucky and went to Illinois with his parents with horses and rude wagon, the wheels, which were hewn from the trunk of a tree. As a farmer he aided in opening the way for future generations. His death occurred in 1877. His wife, Jane (Greer) Revis, likewise was born in Kentucky and her parents were pioneer settlers in the state that reared Abraham Lincoln. She passed away in 1876.

After his first experience in Nebraska, William Revis remained for three years in the state that had been his boyhood home, but he then decided that Gage county, Nebraska, offered the best opportunities for farming.

November 28, 1878, he married Chloe B. Ellis, who was born December 30, 1860, in Montgomery county, Illinois. Her parents, Jeremiah and Henrietta (Holcombe) Ellis, were born in New York and Ohio respectively, and after coming to Illinois they there remained until 1881, when they came to Gage county, Nebraska. Here they purchased land for six dollars an acre. They continued their farming operations all of their life. After their death, Mrs. Revis inherited forty acres of the Revis farm, located in Section 5, Adams township.

The following named children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Revis: Ethel Ann died in infancy; Berge is living at home; Emery is living in Nemaha township, this county; Bertha is the wife of Edgar Sims, and they reside in Wright county, Iowa; Earl lives in Adams township; and Jane is at home with her parents.

In politics Mr. Revis is a Democrat, but he is prone to cast an independent vote, preferring men and measures to strict party lines. He and his wife attend the Baptist church, which has their liberal support.

CHARLES S. CURRY, M. D. — One of the younger members of the medical profession in the city of Beatrice is the subject of this sketch, Dr. Charles Samuel Curry. Dr. Curry was born in the village of Clayton, Adams county, Illinois on the 30th day of July, 1873. He is a son of Benjamin A. and Lucy (Hopkins) Curry, both of English descent. His father was born in Kentucky in 1825 and in 1837 he was taken by his parents to Illinois. The family was amongst the earliest settlers of Adams county and was well connected and highly respected.

Benjamin A. Curry obtained title to a considerable tract of land in the immediate vicinity of Clayton, his patent to a portion of it being signed by Franklin Pierce, president of the United States. At the time of his death, which occurred on the 29th day of June, 1915, when he was just closing his ninetieth year, he was one of the wealthy farmers of Adams county. Doctor Curry's mother, Lucy (Hopkins) Curry, was born in the state of Ohio, in 1840. She was a woman of great refinement. She was reared in the state of Illinois and became the wife of Benjamin A. Curry in 1858. She died in 1881, at the age of forty-one years, and when her son Charles S. was in the eighth year of his age.

Six children were the fruit of this marriage, — four daughters and two sons. The daughters are Mrs. Linnie A. Wilson and Mrs. Dora A. Cain, both of Clayton, Illinois; Mrs. Nellie P. Potter, of Chicago, Illinois; and Mrs. Carrie A. Andrews, of Kansas City, Missouri. The sons are Edgar T. Clayton, the leading hardware merchant of Clayton, and Dr. Charles Samuel Curry, of Beatrice.

Dr. Curry was brought upon his father's farm and learned the occupation of a farmer. In the schools of his native village he obtained a good education, and was graduated in the high school in 1890. He then conceived the idea of entering upon a business life and accepted employment in connection with a string of dry-goods stores owned by his uncle, A. C. Majors, at Chillicothe, Missouri, Herrington, Kansas, and Hennessey, Oklahoma — in each of which he remained six months.

In the autumn of 1896 Dr. Curry entered classical Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, from which institution he graduated in 1900. Almost immediately he located at Beatrice in the practice of his profession and here he has since been engaged constantly in that useful and benevolent calling.

After locating in Beatrice, August 6, 1900, he returned to Illinois, in November of that year, and was united in marriage to Miss Ada Willa Hiles, an accomplished and very amiable young lady. Through many excellent qualities of heart and great worth of character they have made for themselves a large place in the social life of the city of Beatrice.

Dr. Curry is now well established in his professional work. He has a large and an increasing business. He is a member of the Gage County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is the local medical examiner for a number of life insurance companies including the Bankers' Life of Lincoln, Nebraska, the Pacific Mutual of New York, the Union Central, the Phenix Mutual and the Metropolitan. He is also a member of the Gage county pension board and the county insanity commission. He is district surgeon for the Union Pacific Railway Company and a member of the local advisory board for the United States government.

Dr. Curry has a large and an increasing business and is much esteemed not only by the public at large but also by his professional brethren, which is the acid test of a physician's abilities and integrity of character.

JOHN F. STEINMEYER. — He whose name introduces this article is a member of a family whose name has been long and prominently identified with the activities of agricultural and live-stock industry in Gage county and adequate record concerning the family ap-

pears on other pages, in connection with the review of the career of his honored father, Frederick Steinmeyer. In Clatonia township John F. Steinmeyer now rents from his father a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-two acres, and here he is vigorously and successfully carrying forward operations as an agriculturist and stock-raiser and as one of the representative farmers of the younger generation in his native township.

On the old homestead farm, in Section 28, Clatonia township, Mr. Steinmeyer was born March 10, 1880, and here he was reared to manhood under invigorating and benigant influences, in the meanwhile making good use of the advantages afforded in the local schools. He continued to be associated with his father in farm operations until 1901, and since that time he has conducted independent enterprise as a farmer, his unequivocal success attesting to the energy and good judgment which he has brought to bear. He has leased and operated his present farm since 1907 and in the meanwhile has made numerous improvements on the place, including the erection of a modern house and barn, as well as corn cribs and other minor farm buildings. In the live-stock department of his farm enterprise he gives special attention to the raising of high-grade Poland-China swine. He is a Republican in his political proclivities and he and his wife hold membership in the German Methodist church.

February 19, 1908, recorded the marriage of Mr. Steinmeyer to Mrs. Minnie (Strouckmeyer) Unbefunde, who was born in Highland township, this county, and who is a daughter of August and Catherine (Albert) Strouckmeyer. Her first husband was Frederick Unbefunde, who is survived by their two children, Alma and Emma, both of whom remain with their mother and both of whom are attending school.

FREDERICK W. WINTER, M. D., a representative physician at Wymore, was born September 28, 1852, and is a son of William and Wilhelmina (Fiegenbaum) Winter. William Winter was born at Lippe-Detmoid, Germany, July 31, 1825, and came to the United States in 1842. His wife was born in Germany, July 27, 1833, and died March 19, 1917. After coming to America both families settled in Warren county, Missouri, where William Winter and Wilhelmina Fiegenbaum met for the first time; shortly after their marriage they moved to Iowa.

William Winter was a soldier in the war with Mexico and was given government land in Iowa in consideration of his services. In 1857 he was ordained a minister of the German Methodist church, his first charge being at Rock Island, Illinois, and his last charge was at Davenport, Iowa, where he died February 21, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Winter became the parents of nine children, of whom Dr. Frederick W. is the eldest. Adolph Fiegenbaum, father of Mrs. William Winter, was born in Germany, December 17, 1792, and came to the United States in 1833, settling in Missouri. Later he removed to Garner, Iowa, and there his death occurred January 7, 1877. His wife, Christina Wilhelmina, was born in Germany, in 1796, and died in Iowa, January 17, 1871.

Dr. Frederick W. Winter was educated at Muscatine, Iowa, where he was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1866. He was at one time superintendent of schools at Garner, Iowa, a position he retained two years. He studied medicine in Iowa State Medical College and was graduated with the class of 1880. The same year he moved to Kansas and began the practice of medicine at Junction City, where he remained one year. In 1882 Dr. Winter came to Wymore, Nebraska, and here he has practiced his profession continuously from that year to the present time.

On October 26, 1885, Dr. Winter was united in marriage to Miss Lida P. Bennett, daughter of James Bennett, Jr. To this union were born five children, as follows, Ralph B., of Adams, this county; Mary Irene, a teacher of schools at Casper, Wyoming; Wilhelm Waldo, Elsie Amelia, at home; and Louis E., now in the United States army.

James Bennett, Jr., father of Mrs. Winter, was born in New York state, November 26,

1840. He came to Wymore in 1882 and in 1884 was followed by his family. He was a brick mason and brick manufacturer, and he followed this business after coming to Nebraska. He assisted in erecting some of the first brick buildings in the city of Wymore. Mr. Bennett married Miss Eliza Hollenbeck, who was born November 12, 1839. They were the parents of four children, two of whom are living, — Lida, wife of Dr. Winter, of this review, and Frances B. Horham, a widow, living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Bennett died in May, 1897.

Dr. Winter is a Republican and he was for six years a member of the Wymore school board. He is a member of the Methodist church, is a Mason and belongs to several fraternal insurance societies. He is also a member of the Nebraska State Homoeopathic Medical Society and the American Institute of Homoepathy. Dr. Winter has always enjoyed a large practice and is held in very high esteem in the community in which he lives.

LEWIS D. LENGER was until recently the owner of one of the well improved and ably managed farms of his native county and became known as one of the aggressive and successful younger exponents of agricultural and live-stock industry in Midland township, which represented his place of residence from the time of his birth and in which he was a scion of a pioneer family that was here founded prior to the admission of Nebraska to statehood. Mr. Lenger was born on his father's old homestead farm, in Section 2, Midland township, on the 9th of July, 1880, and is a son of Herman B. and Charlotta Louise (Brand) Lenger, both of whom were born in Germany and both of whom were residents of Gage county at the time of their death. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Warren county, Missouri, and in 1866 they came to Nebraska Territory and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Gage county, the journey to the new home having been made with a wagon and a team of army mules, which outfit afforded transportation for the parents and their four children, as well as a small supply of household effects. With the funds which he had previously accumulated, Herman B. Lenger was enabled to make partial payment on a quarter-section of land which he here purchased for twelve hundred dollars, in Midland township, and later he added to his farm property by buying, for three hundred dollars, a relinquishment of a claim to an adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres. He reclaimed and improved a good farm, he and his wife endured their full quota of the hardships and trials incidental to pioneer life, but substantial prosperity eventually crowned their earnest endeavors, both having remained on the old homestead until their death. Of their ten children seven are living: Herman H. is a retired farmer residing in the village of Odell, this county; Lena M. is the wife of P. M. Roush and they reside on their well improved fruit farm, near Canyonville, Oregon; Lottie married J. B. Renard, of Odell, this county; Minnie C. is the wife of Samuel C. Gockley, a farmer and fruit-grower in the vicinity of Wenatchee, Chelan county, Washington; William J. owns one of the excellent farms of Gage county and there maintains his home, five miles west of the village of Pickrell; John A. lives in the home of his brother William J.; and Lewis D., of this review, is the youngest of the number. The parents were zealous members of the Church of the Brethren and the father gave not only an acre of ground as a site for the church of this denomination in Midland township but also an equal amount for a cemetery, with stipulation that no charge should be made for interments in the same. He was a man of indomitable industry, of mature judgment and of those sterling principles that make for the highest type of citizenship, his political allegiance having been given ot the Republican party. He was a young man when he came to America, his parents having passed their entire lives in Germany. His wife's parents were pioneer settlers in Johnson county, Nebraska, and there both were killed by lightning while they were driving in a spring wagon, on their way from a visit to the parents of the subject of this sketch.

Lewis D. Lenger acquired his early education in the Mount Olive school, in District No. 11, Midland township, and he early became familiar with the varied details of farm enterprise. In initiating his independent activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower he purchased a part of the farm of his brother Herman, and to the same he added until he had an admirably improved and valuable landed property of one hundred and eighty-six acres, in Section 2, Midland township. He here gave his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of good types of live stock, in which latter department he made a specialty of raising sheep and swine. He is imbued with the vital spirit of the west and is liberal and progressive as a citizen, his political support being given to the Republican party. He has not been ambitious for political activity or public office but has given effective service as a member of the school board of his district. Both he and his wife are active members of the Church of the Brethren.

January 1, 1908, recorded the marriage of Mr. Lenger to Miss Willa Coonley, who was born in Beatrice, and reared on her father's farm near Pickrell, this county, where her father, O. G. Coonley, is now living retired. Mr. and Mrs. Lenger have one child, Lea Louise, who was born December 22, 1911.

In December, 1917, Mr. Lenger sold his farm and moved to Beatrice. At the time of this writing he is manager of the Pickrell Live Stock Shipping Association, of Pickrell, this county.

WILLIAM W. WICK is a well-to-do farmer, and is farming one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 19, Sicily township. This land is the homestead of his parents, Andrew and Maria Elizabeth (Heimlich) Wick, who came to Gage county in 1883 and purchased this land, upon which they made their home until they were called to the life eternal. Andrew Wick was born in Baden, Germany, in 1834, and was a son of Sabastian Wick, who also was born in Germany, and who came with his family to America. He settled in Ohio in 1835, and there he tilled the soil until 1863, when he removed to Indiana, where he again beguiled nature to yield her corn and wheat, and where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Their son, Andrew, the father of William W. Wick, was a baby in arms when his parents immigrated to the United States, and in his early manhood he lived in Ohio where he married Maria Elizabeth Heimlich, who was born in that state, in 1836, a daughter of German emigrants who had first lived in Pennsylvania and then moved to Ohio, where they were farmers in Morrow county, and where they passed their last days.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wick moved from Ohio in 1863 and settled near Bourbon, Indiana, on a farm of eighty acres. They bought sixty acres more of the fertile land, making in all one hundred and forty acres that they owned in Indiana. In 1883 they came to Sicily township, Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased the land which their son William W. now owns. For many years they lived on this homestead. Mr. Wick died in 1894 and his widow passed away in 1915, at the age of seventy-nine years. They were the parents of thirteen children, and those surviving have taken their places in the world, to enrich the communities in which they live: John and Charles are twins, the former residing in Kansas and the latter in Bourbon, Indiana; Catherine is with her brother William, of this sketch; Mary who is deceased, was the wife of M. Yowell, living in Oklahoma; Lena is the wife of Henry Kelver, a retired farmer living in Plymouth, Indiana; Henry L. is a farmer east of Holmesville, Gage county; Caroline is the wife of M. E. Kerr, a school teacher of Bourbon, Indiana; William W. is the subject of this review; A. C. is a farmer in Elm township, this county; Anna, is the wife of F. H. Kimmerling, a retired farmer of Beatrice; R. J. is a bachelor and lives with his brother William; Philip died in infancy; and M. A. is a farmer in Sicily township, this county.

William Wick was a lad of fifteen years when his parents came to Gage county and here he finished his education in the district schools. He has devoted his time exclusively

to his farming interests. He is a member of the Lutheran church and votes the Democratic ticket. He has served as town clerk and is alive to the best interests of his community.

GEORGE L. ROE, M. D., who has for more than thirty years been engaged in the practice of his profession in Gage county, has maintained his residence in the city of Beatrice since 1886. Prior to this he had been a pioneer physician and surgeon at Odell, this county, where he had established his residence in 1881. Dr. Roe served seventeen years as official physician and surgeon of Gage county and for an equal period as city physician of Beatrice. He held for twenty-four consecutive years a position as a member of the United States board of pension examining surgeons for Gage county, and at the expiration of this long period he resigned the post. The Doctor holds membership in the Gage County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association.

Dr. George Lowry Roe was born in the state of Indiana, September 13, 1858, and is a son of Samuel Lowry Roe and Mary Elizabeth (Henley) Roe, natives respectively of Kentucky and Virginia. The parents passed the closing years of their lives in Adams county, Illinois, Samuel L. Roe having been a soldier of the Union in the Civil war.

Dr. Roe acquired his early education in Louisville, Kentucky, and Quincy, Illinois. In 1878 he was graduated in the Louisville Medical College, and after thus receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine he engaged in practice at Clayton, Illinois, where he remained until he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and engaged in practice as one of the pioneer physicians in the new town of Odell, his removal to Beatrice having occurred in 1886, as previously noted. The representative character of his clientage during the long intervening years best attests to his professional ability and personal popularity.

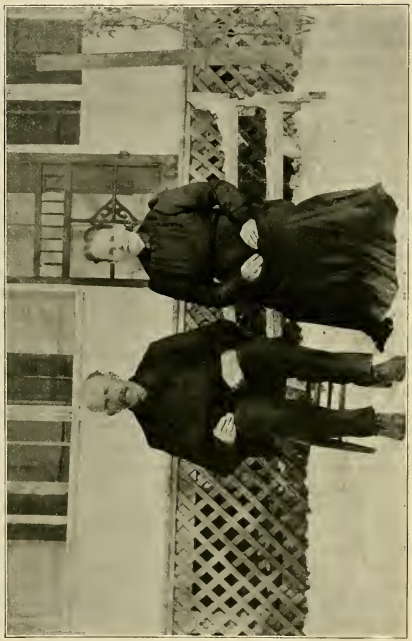
Dr. Roe has served as medical advisor and examiner of the official draft board of Gage county since the nation entered the great European war, and in May, 1918, he tendered his services to the government for professional identification with the military activities of the country in a more direct way. His only son is at the time of this writing serving as a soldier with the American expeditionary forces in France.

Dr. Roe is a Democrat in politics, and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. His wife, whose maiden name was Ida L. Thompson, was born at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and they have two children; Marie L. is the wife of Frederick Nichols, of Beatrice, and Samuel Lowry Roe, as previously stated, is a soldier with our national forces in France.

PERCY F. HEFFELFINGER. — One of the native sons of Gage county who has elected to remain within its borders and who is meeting with success in his occupation is Percy F. Heffelfinger, who operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Midland township. He was born in Beatrice, this county, June 3, 1892, and is a son of Bell M. and Louise Heffelfinger, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume.

In the acquirement of his early education, Percy F. Heffelfinger attended school in his native city. On January 4, 1909, Mr. Heffelfinger was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Ray, who likewise is a native of Gage county and who is a daughter of Ira and Millie (Ayers) Ray, natives of Illinois, who became residents of Gage county at an early date and owned and developed the farm which is now the home of their daughter Nellie (Mrs. Heffelfinger). Mr. Ray passed away on this farm October 3, 1908, and his widow now resides in Lincoln. They became the parents of six children, of whom three are living: Nellie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Edward D., a machinist, residing in the city of Lincoln; and Fred, now a soldier in the national army, he being, at the time of this writing, stationed at Kelley Field, Texas. The three deceased children were Lou Emma, Lester and Allen Henry.

Mr. and Mrs. Heffelfinger are the parents of



MR. AND MRS. FREDERICH BOESIGER

three children: Ray, Anita, and Erma Dean. Mr. Heffelfinger follows general farming, employing up-to-date methods, and is meeting with that success which comes as the result of industry and thoughtfully applied efforts. He is independent in politics. Mrs. Heffelfinger is a member of the Christian church at Beatrice.

JOHN F. BOESIGER. — Among the many prosperous farmers in Nemaha township, Gage county, mention should be made of John F. Boesiger, agriculturist, grower of purebred shorthorn cattle, and owner of three hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, in Sections 11 and 12.

Mr. Boesiger was born February 5, 1877, in Lancaster county, Nebraska, and is a son of Frederich and Anna (Egger) Boesiger. The father was born in Switzerland, October 18, 1843, and the mother also was a native of Switzerland, where she was born March 18, 1852. Frederich Boesiger left his native country at the age of nineteen years and after his arrival in America he settled near Bloomington, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand. He remained in Illinois until about 1871, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Lancaster county, where he still resides. When Mr. Boesiger first came to the state he purchased a small tract of land, and by careful management and economy he added to his holdings until he became the owner of two thousand six hundred acres of good agricultural land in Lancaster and Gage counties. This he divided among his children. He is also a stockholder in the Bank of Cortland, Gage county. He now makes his home with his youngest son.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederich Boesiger became the parents of twelve children, concerning whom brief record is here entered: David is a farmer in Nemaha township, Gage county; Mary is the wife of W. C. Luckey, of Princeton, Buda township, Lancaster county; John F. is the subject of this review; Mrs. Fannie Loesing resides at Hickman, Lancaster county; Rudolph lives in Lancaster county; Emma is the wife of George Hickman, a farmer in Highland township, Gage county; Fred, Jr., is a farmer near Princeton, Lancaster county; Ella is the wife of Fred Morimer, of Highland township, Gage county; George is deceased; William is living near Princeton, Lancaster county; and two children died in infancy. The wife and mother passed away June 8, 1916. She was a member of the Congregational church, as is also her husband, who is now venerable in years.

John F. Boesiger has always followed farming. He received his education in the district schools of Lancaster county and continued to assist his father on the farm until he was twenty-six years of age, when he became the owner of his present farm home, and began operations for himself. This farm he has greatly improved. In 1904 he erected a fine new house of eight rooms, a modern barn thirty-eight by forty feet in dimensions, and also a silo, thirty-six by nineteen feet in dimensions. He is a breeder of fine pure-bred cattle, feeds both cattle and hogs for the market, and has made a great success of his chosen occupation.

January 1, 1902, recorded the marriage of Mr. Boesiger to Miss Hannah Meyers, who was born in Lancaster county, this state, and who is a daughter of Henry and Sophia (Menke) Meyers. Mr. Meyers is now deceased and his widow continues to make her home in Lancaster county. Mr. and Mrs. Boesiger are the parents of three childern, Evelyn, Helen and Mildred, all at home.

In politics Mr. Boesiger is a Republican of independent proclivities and he usually casts his vote for the man rather than observing strict party lines. He is a member of Firth Lodge No. Forty-seven, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Firth, and the family are members of the Congregational church. In connection with this review are consistently given portraits of the parents of Mr. Boesiger.

WILLIAM MANGUS, whose death occurred in the year 1904, established his residence in Gage county in 1881 and became one of the successful farmers and highly honored

citizens of Sherman township, where he lived a righteous and productive life and made for himself secure place in popular confidence and esteem. As one of the sterling pioneers of the county he is properly given a memorial tribute in this history.

A scion of a family that was founded in the historic Old Dominion in the colonial days, William Mangus was born in Virginia, October 20, 1832, and in that fine old commonwealth his parents, Michael and Sarah (Showalter) Mangus, passed their entire lives, the father having been a farmer by vocation. Reared and educated in his native state, William Mangus gained in his youth such experience as to cause him naturally to turn to agricultural pursuits in initiating his independent career, and after his marriage he engaged in farming in Roanoke county, Virginia. When the Civil war was precipitated he was loyal to the cause of the Confederacy and, in 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Forty-second Virginia Infantry, with which he served in the command of General Stonewall Jackson until the death of that gallant officer. He took part in the battles of Chancellorsville, McDowell Mountain, Middletown and Peterburg, and at the battle of the Wilderness he was so severely wounded that he was thereafter confined to the hospital for two months. He then rejoined his regiment, and while with the command in the Shenandoah valley he was captured by the enemy. He was held as a prisoner of war for three months, at the expiration of which his exchange was effected. An attack of typhoid fever made it impossible for him to join his regiment until the following year, and after recuperating he continued in active service until shortly before the fall of Petersburg, when he was honorably discharged, at the expiration of his term of enlistment. He continued his farm enterprise in Roanoke county until the close of the war and in 1866 he removed with his family to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he was similarly engaged for the ensuing four years. He then removed to Christian county, that state, where he continued his active association with farm enterprise until 1881, when he came with his family to Nebraska and settled in Gage county. At the rate of ten dollars an acre he purchased eighty acres of partially improved land in Sherman township, and his energy and ability brought to him large and substantial success during the passing years, as shown by the fact that at the time of his death he was the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred acres. He was a stalwart in the local ranks of the Democratic party and was influential in community affairs in his township, where he held minor official positions, including that of school director.

November 6, 1859, recorded the marriage of Mr. Mangus to Miss Catherine Garst, who was born in Roanoke county, Virginia, December 9, 1840, and who survived him by more than a decade, she having been one of the revered pioneer women of Gage county at the time when she was summoned to eternal rest, in February, 1916. She was a daughter of George and Catherine (Marka) Garst, both natives of the state of Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Mangus were born twelve children: John H., born May 2, 1860, died December 5, 1860; Sarah E., born December 28, 1861, is the widow of Enos Rishel and resides at McCook, Nebraska; Rebecca J., born December 1, 1864, is the wife of J. W. Martin, of Sherman township, Gage county; George W., born May 7, 1866, is a farmer in Sherman county, Kansas; Jerry T. is individually represented on other pages of this volume; Joseph and Josiah, (twins) were born August 17, 1871: Josiah died September 19, 1871, and Joseph is a resident of Gage county; E. B. was born March 7, 1869; Mary E. was born January 29, 1873, and is the wife of Gustavus A. Erickson, of Gage county; Catherine, born April 14, 1876, is the wife of John Lidgard, of Gage county; C. E., born August 16, 1879, resides in Gage county; and William, born February 7, 1882, resides in Delta county, Colorado.

FRED A. HARPER. — The agricultural interests of Gage county find a worthy representative in Fred A. Harper who owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 20, Adams township.

He was born in a brick house in the city of Liverpool, England, at six o'clock in the morning of January 3, 1843, and his parents Allen and Mary (Hopley) Harper, also were natives of England. In 1848, with their family of four children, they came to America and settled on a farm, in McLean county, Illinois, after a short stay in New York state. When the Civil war broke out, Allen Harper enlisted in the Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He became a captain, and while in defence of his adopted country he was taken sick with typhoid fever and received an honorable discharge. His last days were passed at the home of his son, in Jefferson county, Nebraska, where he died in 1888, at the age of sixty-eight years. His widow died in 1891, at the age of seventy-one years. They were the parents of the following named children: Mrs. Elizabeth Mayberry, deceased; Fred A., subject of this sketch; Mrs. William Groves, of Marshall county, Kansas; Allen, deceased; Samuel, a resident of Illinois; Joseph, deceased; and Mrs. Richard Newcomb, of California.

Fred A. Harper was a lad of five years when the family home was transferred to America. He was reared on a farm in Illinois, attended district school, in the acquirement of an education, and when he became a man he wisely chose for a life work the occupation which he had learned in his younger days. His home remained in Illinois until December 13, 1887, when he came to Nebraska and bought a farm in Jefferson county. He successfully operated this until 1893, when he traded it for his present farm, moving to Adams township on December 13th of that year. He has had made such improvements as were needed, transforming it to a valuable tract. Mr. Harper has done general farming, and pays particular attention to the feeding of swine, both branches of the business proving profitable.

As a helpmeet Mr. Harper chose Miss Cassandra Mayberry, their wedding being celebrated July 18, 1870. Mrs. Harper was born January 17, 1849, in Hamilton county, Illinois, in the district known as Egypt. Her parents were William and Caroline (McBroom) Mayberry, natives of Illinois, and of German and French descent, both are now deceased.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Harper has been blessed with seven children as follows: Stella is the wife of W. Barmore, of Adams; Eliza is the wife of F. Perry, a farmer of Adams township; John F. who operates his father's farm, married Miss Clara Silver, whose parents were homesteaders in Gage county; Ira Arthur, who lives in Hollenberg, Kansas, married Minnie Hildebrand, of Adams; Jessie L. is the wife of A. Robb, residing at Filley, Nebraska; and two children died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Harper endorses the principals of the Republican party, and he has served efficiently as a member of the school board of his district. He is a member of the lodge of the Independant Order of Odd Fellows at Adams. In every relation of life Mr. Harper has measured up to the full standard of citizenship. While the active work of the farm has been shifted to younger shoulders, he still is interested in all those things which have to do with moral and material uplift of his community.

HERMAN A. KROESE. — Holland is a country that is noted for its thrifty and industrious people. While it is a small nation geographically, it has won a place in the world as a nation of intensive farming and other productive industries. Its sons who immigrate to the United States bring with them methods of farming which, when applied to our broad acres, makes them specially successful and prosperous farmers.

Herman A. Kroese is a Hollander by birth and an American by adoption. He was born May 2, 1863, in Elburg, Holland. His parents, with their eleven children, left the spotless town of Elburg, Holland, in 1881, to seek in the United States greater opportunities for advancement. Lancaster county, Nebraska, was selected for their farming operations and they located on a farm near Panama, that county. They remained on this farm until their death. These good people, Jannes and

Gerritje (Dul) Kroese, were born in Holland. Jannes was born February 17, 1832, and his death occurred August 2, 1916. His wife was born April 23, 1841, and her death occurred a few months prior to that of her husband — May, 28, 1916. Thirteen strong, robust sons and daughters were reared on the farm near Panama, Nebraska. They have all taken their places in the world's work, as farmers and as artisans of various sorts.

Herman A. Kroese was seventeen years old when his parents migrated to the broad prairies of Nebraska. They toiled to subdue the wild fertile lands and wrest from nature her treasures, as well as to develop strong minds and bodies for their children. The early education of Herman A. Kroese was received in Holland and upon his arrival in Nebraska he helped his father on the farm. After he passed his majority he worked among the farmers as a farm hand, continuing in this work until, in 1888, he was employed as a clerk in the general merchandise store at Holland, Nebraska.

At this period of life he wedded Ida Boeve, their marriage having been solemnized on the 26th day of February, 1891. Mrs. Kroese was the daughter of Dutch parents who had immigrated to this country from Holland and settled in Iowa, and she was born January 18, 1872. Her parents, Lewis and Hattie (Stuurop) Boeve, helped to build up the agricultural wealth of Iowa. Mrs. Kroese was a member of the Dutch Reformed church, was a devoted mother and was a true helpmeet to her husband. Her death occurred in Kansas, March 18, 1903. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kroese, and concerning them the following brief record in consistently given: Hattie is the wife of G. Wubbels, living in Lancaster county, Nebraska; Louisa is the wife of H. Kamp, of Adams township, Gage county; John and Edna remain at home with their father; Adrian is deceased; and Arthur is with his uncle, L. H. Kroese.

After Mr. Kroese's marriage, in 1891, he rented land from his father for two years. In 1893 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Norton county, Kansas, and fourteen years were spent on this farm, where his children were born, and the children attended the rural schools of the vicinity. In 1907, about four years after the death of his wife, Mr. Kroese, with his family of children, returned to Nebraska, and he purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land in section 3, Adams county. He is still owner of his land in Kansas.

A modern residence is occupied by Mr. Kroese and his son and daughter who remain at home with him. The house is lighted by gas, is steam heated, and is provided with running hot and cold water. Such a home a prosperous farmer can truly enjoy after years of hard labor.

In politics Mr. Kroese is independent in his thinking and voting. He believes that the man and not the party is to be chosen as the servant of the people in the legislative and other governmental bodies. His religious views are in accord with the faith of the Dutch Reformed church, which receives of his liberal support.

ISAAC H. BRUBAKER, owner and manager of the Farmers Feed Yard, 212 South Fourth street, Beatrice, was born in Cass county, Indiana, December 17, 1860, and is a son of Abraham and Martha (Parker) Brubaker.

Abraham Brubaker was born in Pennsylvania in 1811. He moved to Indiana and later to Illinois. By his marriage to Miss Martha Parker, of Ohio, were born fourteen children as follows: Stephen, living in Iowa; Jacob, a Union soldier, who was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville prison, in 1865; Hannah, wife of William Parker, of Tennessee; Mary, widow of Wilson Dunniston, now making her home in Kansas City, Missouri; Joseph and Solomon, of Indiana; Alva, of Bigelow, Kansas; David, of Hendley, Nebraska; Jennie, Martha, and Angeline, deceased; Isaac H., the subject of this sketch; Henry, of Colorado; and Ella, widow of William Woodburn, late of Kansas.

Abraham Brubaker came to Nebraska in 1886 and settled in Furnas county, where he

died in 1901. His widow passed away in 1903.

Isaac H. Brubaker was educated in the public schools of Illinois, and followed farming in that state until 1879, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Gage county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Glenwood township. Several years ago Mr. Brubaker removed to the city of Beatrice, where he bought the Farmers Feed Yard, which he now manages. He has recently purchased thirteen acres of land in Section 35, Midland township, on which he has built a comfortable residence, and where he makes his home.

In 1903 Mr. Brubaker married Miss Elizabeth Alder, of Beatrice. They are the parents of two children, Richard and Grace. Mr. and Mrs. Brubaker are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and take a great interest in church work.

HERMAN F. SIEMS. — It is a privilege at this point to direct attention to another of the native sons of Gage county who has here achieved success and prominence as a representative agriculturist and stock-grower, Mr. Siems being the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land in Grant township, his homestead farm, of one hundred and fifty-eight acres, being in Section 16, and his second farm, of one hundred and sixty-two acres, being in Section 21. Both places are under his direct and characteristically able management and are given over to diversified agriculture and stock-growing.

On his father's old homestead farm in Section 23, Grant township, Herman F. Siems was born March 22, 1877, a date that indicates that he is a scion of one of the pioneer families of the county. His father, Claus Siems, came to Gage county in the spring of 1876, and eventually he developed and improved one of the fine farm properties of Grant township, he having reclaimed from the prairie fully two hundred and forty acres of land and having become one of the successful and representative farmers and stock-growers of the county, where he continued to maintain his home until his death, in 1913, his fine farm estate having been that on which the subject of this sketch was born and reared.

Claus Siems was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, February 11, 1841, and after leaving school he served a thorough apprenticeship to the trade of cabinetmaker. In his native land he continued to follow his trade until his immigration to America, and for three years after his arrival in the land of his adoption he was employed in a sash and door factory at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Thereafter he was for ten years employed at his trade at Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois, where, on the 19th of February, 1873, he wedded Miss Lena Weltzein, who was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, August 18, 1849, and who was but five years old when she accompanied her widowed mother to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Siems became the parents of six sons and two daughters — all of whom are living — and of the number the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth. The devoted wife and mother, who is now deceased, shared fully with her husband in the trials and hardships of pioneer life after they had established their home in Gage county, both having been active members of the German Lutheran church and his political support having been given to the Democratic party.

Reared under the influences of the pioneer farm and profiting duly by the advantages afforded in the English and German schools of the locality, Herman F. Siems early began to lend effective aid in the work of his father's farm, so that he learned in the passing years all details of farm industry. In 1907 he purchased his present fine farm, commonly known as the old Ellis place and long prominent in having a large white house which was for many years the only one of this color in the locality. As a farmer he has added to the honors of the family name, as has he also as a loyal and progressive citizen, his political support being given to the Democratic party and he and his wife holding to the faith of the Lutheran church.

In 1904 Mr. Siems married Miss Sophia

Damkroger, who likewise was born and reared in Gage county and who is a daughter of the late Henry Damkroger, an honored pioneer of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Siems have six children, all of whom remain members of the cheery home circle, namely: Martha, Elmer, Lawrence, Elsie, Arthur, and Laura.

JOHN A. BRYSON, farmer and stock-raiser in Section 35, Adams township, has the distinction of being a native of Gage county, Nebraska, and a member of one of the most widely known and respected families of Adams township.

Mr. Bryson was born in Adams township, this county, on May 12, 1869, a son of Silas and Clarinda (Young) Bryson, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. John A. was educated in the district schools of Gage county and as a boy and young man he worked with his father on the farm. Later he rented land and was here engaged in farming for himself until 1899, when he went to Oklahoma, in which state he continued farming until 1903. He then returned to Gage county, Nebraska, and farmed on rented land until the spring of 1908, when he again went to Oklahoma, where he remained until 1911. Coming back to Gage county, Nebraska, in that year, he engaged in farming and stock-raising on Section 35, Adams township where he has remained to the present time. Mr. Bryson is making a success of his chosen calling, and at the present time, in connection with his brother, David F., is feeding a large herd of cattle for market.

Mr. Bryson was united in marriage February 8, 1893, to Miss Evalena A. Reynolds, a daughter of J. S. and Sarah (Thompson) Reynolds, and of this union have been born five children, as follows: George W. died in childhood; Lilah I. is a teacher in the Johnson county schools; and Hugh, Charles, and Zella are at home.

J. S. Reynolds, father of Mrs. Bryson, was born in West Virginia, in May, 1839, and followed farming and the carpenter trade in Iowa until 1861, when he enlisted in the Union army and served throughout the war. He was mustered out in 1865, and thereafter in Iowa he again took up the carpenter trade, which he followed until 1878. He then came to Nebraska with his family and settled in Otoe county, where he stayed only one year. In 1879 he came to Gage county and here he followed farming for twenty years. Going to Oklahoma in 1899, he there bought land and he remained there until his death, in 1908. Mrs. Reynolds is a native of Indiana, born April 15, 1850, a daughter of Garret Thompson. She now makes her home at Pond Creek, Oklahoma.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Adams, in which they are both devoted workers. In politics Mr. Bryson is a Prohibitionist and he is very enthusiastic in the furtherance of the party cause.

COLONEL JOHNSON HIATT. — The history of nations is but the composite assembling of the histories of individual persons, each of whom, in working out his destiny, co-ordinates with others in making the history of the community, the county, the state, the nation. Few men in Gage county have had in life a closer personal and ancestral touch and asssociation with events of historic importance than has Colonel Johnson Hiatt, who is an honored and influential citizen of Odell and who is familiarly known throughout this section of Nebraska.

The sixth in a family or seventeen children, Colonel Johnson Hiatt was born at Sidney, Fremont county, Iowa, in the year 1859, and he is a son of Joseph anad Martha Ann (Estes) Hiattt. His parents were numbered among the early pioneer settlers of the Hawk-eye state, which was little more than an untrammeled wilderness when they there established their home, in 1851, upon removal from Illinois. Joseph Hiatt was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on the 27th of December,, 1826, and was a son of Jesse Hiatt, the family name of whose wife was Proctor. Jesse Hiattt was a soldier in the war of 1812 and thereafter became one of the very early settlers in the state of Illinois. His father was a birthright member of the Society of Friends,

COLONEL JOHNSON HIATT AND WIFE

or Quakers, and his religious faith did not permit him to give military service. Under these conditions he paid a fourfold tax in lieu of such service, at the time of the war of the Revolution. As recognition is taken of the lives and deeds of such worthy men and women as the ancestors of the subject of this review, it becomes evident that they did a noble part in connection with laying broad and deep the foundations of our nation, gave loyally to upholding the principles of democracy, and aided in the conquering of the wilderness as the great march of progress made its westward way. Mrs. Martha Ann (Estes) Hiatt, mother of Colonel Hiatt of this review, was born in Clinton county, Missouri, on the 12th of January, 1884, and was a daughter of the celebrated Joel Estes, in whose honor Estes Park, Colorado, was named, he having been the first white man to discover and exploit this region, which is full of nature's wonder and which now attracts thousands of visitors each year. The marriage of Joseph Hiatt and Martha Ann Estes was solemnized in Illinois, on the 30th of November, 1850, and in the following year, as before stated, they established their home in Fremont county, Iowa, where all of their seventeen children were born. On the 30th of November, 1900, this venerable and noble pioneer couple celebrated their golden-wedding anniversary, and the occasion was made a notable one, as fourteen of their married children, with their respective families, and also one unmarried daughter, came from far distant points to pay a tribute of honor and affection, this having been the first family reunion to be held in fifteen years. One daughter and her husband came from London, England, where they were engaged in missionary work, to be present at this memorable celebration and family reunion. At this remarkable gathering of a remarkable family, old times, stories, and incidents were recalled in pleasing reminiscence, and thus were brought back to memory the joys, the sorrow, the hardships and the happy associations of days long past. Joseph and Martha A. (Estes) Hiatt lived long and useful lives and gave to the world sons and daughters of whom they had every reason to be proud when the gracious evening of their lives began to show the lengthened shadows from the sunset gates of the golden west. Joseph Hiatt passed from the stage of life's mortal endeavors on the 19th of February, 1914, at the age of eighty-six years, his loved and devoted wife having passed to the life eternal December 20, 1907. They were earnest, unassuming folk of noble character and exemplified in their daily lives the best ideals of the gentle religious faith to which they adhered, that of the Society of Friends.

Colonel Johnson Hiatt is thus shown to be a true scion of fine pioneer stock, and in his native state he was reared and educated under the conditions of the pioneer era. He was an ambitious youth of eighteen years when, in 1877, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and entered claim to a homestead on the Otoe Indian reservation, which had recently been opened to settlement. There were no roads, no houses in sight and no improvements made on the land which he determined to reclaim into a productive farm. In that early period of his residence in Gage county Colonel Hiatt followed the Indian trails to the little village of Charleston, where he obtained his mail and his necessary supplies. Charleston is now one of the vanished towns of this part of the state, and it was situated one mile south of the present thriving town of Odell. Though a mere youth, Colonel Hiatt girded himself valiantly for the responsibilities and services of a pioneer, and it was his to know and experience all of the incidental loneliness, privation and hardships incidental to the early days on the old Otoe reservation. He endured all and faltered not in his resolute purpose, with the result that the passing years rewarded him with generous prosperity, so that to-day he is one of the substantial landholders and influential citizens of Gage county. It may consistently be said that the community would have lost much had his life and labors found another stage of activity than this, in which he has pressed forward to the goal of worthy prosperity. Colonel Hiatt or added from time to time to the area of his

original homestead, and to-day he is the owner of a well improved and valuable landed estate of eight hundred and sixty acres, — in Elm, Glenwood and Paddock townships. In July, 1911, he removed from his farm to the village of Odell. He bought land adjoining the town and has here platted and developed an attractive addition to the village, the same being known as Hiatt's addition and having proved a distinct gain to Odell, as well as an evidence of the progressiveness of Colonel Hiatt, who has been successful in the development of the addition. Though he is retired from active farm enterprise he gives his attention to the buying and selling of cattle and hogs. For fully thirty years he has been a buyer and shipper of cattle, his shipments having been made principally to Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri.

On the 6th of April, 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Colonel Hiatt to Miss Adelaide Upson, who was born at Rockford, Illinois, March 11, 1859, and who is a daughter of Lyman D. and Lucina (Miller) Upson. Her parents removed from the state of New York to Illinois, and later they came to Gage county, Nebraska, where Mr. Upson took a homestead in the former Otoe Indian reservation, but his death occurred three years later. To Colonel and Mrs. Hiatt have been born ten children, concerning whom brief record is here given: The first child died in infancy; Joseph is a resident of Glenwood township; Mrs. Ruth A. Moffat and her husband reside five miles west of Odell; Wilber is in Elm township; Miles Cleveland resides in Glenwood township; Clarence W. remains at the parental home; Mrs. Grace Thompson lives east of the city of Beatrice; Mary E. is at home and is a popular teacher in the district schools, as is also George D., who likewise is a member of the parental home circle; and Caroline S. is the youngest of the children at the pleasant home.

Colonel Hiatt gives his allegiance to the Democratic party and while he had had no ambition for public office he gave efficient service as treasurer of his school district while residing on his farm. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the order of the Eastern Star, and he holds membership also in the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Hiatt is affiliated with the local chapter of the Eastern Star and also with the Royal Neighbors, and both she and her husband hold membership in the Christian church.

ROBERT W. SABIN is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Gage county. He came to Beatrice from Illinois in August, 1878, and has since maintained a continuous residence here. He found Beatrice an overgrown village of two thousand inhabitants, while all Gage county contained less than twelve thousand. He has seen the county expand to more than thirty thousand and Beatrice develop from a mere western village into a modern city of twelve thousand people.

Mr. Sabin was born in a log cabin in Knox county, Ohio, near the city of Mount Vernon, February 9, 1850. When he was but eighteen months old his parents moved from Ohio to McLean county, Illinois, and located on a farm near the city of Bloomington, where his early life was spent. When opportunity offered he attended the country schools of his neighborhood, and by the time he attained his majority he had acquired a good common-school education. He then entered the Illinois State Normal School, located at Normal, a suburb of Bloomington, and later he attended Wesleyan College, graduating from the law department of that institution in the class of 1877. In November of that year he opened a law office at Minonk, Woodford county, Illinois, where he continued in the practice of his profession for ten months. He then came to the rising city of Beatrice, in search of fortune and professional distinction. Here he engaged in the general practice of the law and developed into an excellent trial lawyer. During his forty years' practice at the bar of Gage county he has successfully transacted a very large volume of legal business, both civil and criminal. His practice has extended to all the courts of the state and to the federal courts, and on account of his abilities as a lawyer and his standing at the bar he has always

commanded the respect of the courts and of his professional associates.

In 1883 Mr. Sabin was elected district attorney of the old First judicial district, which then comprised the counties of Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer, and Fillmore, and he discharged the duties of his office with great credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public at large. During his incumbency he tried and convicted Jackson Marion for the murder of John Cameron, in 1872; he tried and convicted Enoch Bradshaw for the murder of H. C. Voorhees, and also tried the case of the State of Nebraska vs. William H. Reed, for wife murder.

Marion was sentenced to be hanged. On appeal the sentence was reversed and a new trial awarded him. He was again convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hanged. On appeal the sentence was affirmed by the supreme court, and on the 25th day of March, 1887, he was executed in the old jail yard, this being the first and only legal execution in Gage county.

In the Reed case the jury on the first trial disagreed, but on the second trial the defendant was convicted of manslaughter and was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. Bradshaw was given a life sentence in the penitentiary and afterward pardoned by the governor of the state and set free.

Mr. Sabin's successful trial of these cases and many others gave him a standing at the bar as trial lawyer of which any attorney might feel justly proud. Since 1883 he has been counsel for one side or the other in a large number of criminal cases in the Gage county courts, including sixteen murder trials.

In 1892 Mr. Sabin was elected county attorney of Gage county, and he served one term in that important office. He has held also the office of city attorney of Beatrice for six years, and in all these positions he has acquitted himself as a lawyer of marked ability.

Mr. Sabin's parents were Daniel Sabin and Rhoda (Williams) Sabin. His father was of pure English stock, his ancestry reaching back to the Puritans of New England. He was a physician by profession and was also a farmer and a preacher. He was a man of great energy. For his preaching he took no pay, holding that a man who made a daily living otherwise than by preaching ought not to charge for filling the pulpit on Sunday. He was a great reader and a deep Bible student, and for many years he carried on an active practice as a physician, at the same time farming extensively. Robert W. Sabin's mother was of Scotch-Irish stock. Her great-grandfather, Ebenezer Williams, was a Rev. olutionary soldier and fought with great credit in that war for human liberty. She was a literary woman and took time from her household duties to read good and instructive books. Dr. and Rhoda Sabin were the parents of eleven children, the subject of this sketch being their ninth child. Two of their four sons were physicians and two lawyers. In the mother's family there were several lawyers; one brother, Robert E. Williams, for whom Mr. Sabin was named, was a distinguished member of the bar at Bloomington, Illinois.

On the 14th day of February, 1878, Mr. Sabin married Miss Mary Louise Carlock, who had been born and reared in the country near Bloomington, Illinois. Six months after their marriage this young husband and wife came to Beatrice and immediately became factors in the social life of the city. They have for many years been active members of the Christian church of Beatrice and are much esteemed for their social and neighborly qualities and worth of character. Six children have been the fruit of this marriage, of whom five are living, two sons and three daughters. The elder son, Ralph L. Sabin, is married and lives in Washington, D. C. The younger son, Robert L. Sabin also is married and he lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Both are active and prosperous business men. Gertrude, the oldest daughter, is the wife of Earl M. Marvin, publisher of the *Beatrice Daily Sun*; Louise, the second daughter, is the wife of Dr. F. W. Buckley, of Beatrice, who recently went to France as a surgeon in the American expeditionary army, and when last heard from

was at Verdun; Hazel, the youngest daughter, is at home with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Sabin live in a pleasant home at the corner of Seventh and Grant streets, and they are here spending the afternoon of their lives, surrounded by their family and by friends who are tried and true.

C. A. GARRISON. — A fine farm of two hundred acres, in Sections 28 and 29, Adams township, reflects credit upon the owner, Mr. Garrison, who is one of the progressive and up-to-date farmers and stock men of Gage county.

Mr. Garrison is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, his birth having occurred, in Wapello county, April 18, 1870. His father, Silas J. Garrison, was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, January 10, 1846. Reared in his native state, Silas J. Garrison took up farming when a young man, and made it his life work. He had three brothers, Sylvester, Robert, and Herod, who served as soldiers in the Civil war. The last named was a physician who gave his best efforts to care for and heal the sick and wounded during that terrible war. In spite of his able services, his two brothers died during the war. After the war Dr. Garrison located at Chicago, Illinois, and practiced his profession. He also became president of and a lecturer in the Bennett Medical College. The father of these boys was in poor health, a sufferer from rheumatism, and Silas J. remained at home to care for his parents. He also rendered valuable aid to the widows of his brothers.

In 1873 Silas J. Garrison brought his family to Gage county, arriving here April 22, of that year. He settled on the farm that is now the home of his son. He hauled lumber from Lincoln to build the first home of the family, a frame house, twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions. The people from whom he bought the land had a crop growing and he gave them ten dollars for the privilege of erecting his cabin. He devoted several years to improving and cultivating this tract, built substantial buildings and set out trees, making it a valuable property. He later bought another farm in this township, and he retired from the active work of the fields several years before his death, which occurred in 1912. The mother of our subject was Lucy A. (Cadwell) Garrison. She was born in Ohio, January 22, 1844, and was reared in Indiana, accompanying her parents there when a little girl. She survived her husband and passed away in 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Garrison were the parents of five children, of whom C. A., the subject of this review is the eldest. Alvin L. and Clifford E. are deceased; Estella H., wife of J. A. Atkins, is deceased; and Royal V. is a resident of Adams, Nebraska.

C. A. Garrison was three years of age when the home was established in Gage county. He acquired his education in the district schools and in the high school at Adams, also attending the Lincoln Normal School. In 1891 he began farming as a renter, and so carefully did he conserve his earnings that in 1906 he was able to purchase eighty acres of land in Elm township, which he operated for seven years. Upon the death of his father he inherited eighty acres of the old place, and the next year he moved to the old farm. He has since disposed of his land in Elm township, and he now owns two hundred acres in Adams township. Mr. Garrison leases other land in addition to his own and farms four hundred and forty acres. Aside from general farming he also raises pure-bred Hampshire hogs and Percheron horses, both branches of his business yielding him good returns.

In 1901 occurred the marriage of C. A. Garrison and Miss Mary Isley, who was born in Hawkins county, Tennessee, a daughter of David and Martha (Walker) Isley. Mrs. Garrison's brother Jasper lived in Gage county and with him she made her home several years prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Garrison have three children, Dwight, Ruby, and Ruth, all under the parental roof. The family attend the Methodist church, of which they are all members. In politics Mr. Garrison is a Democrat. He is one of the substantial men of Gage county and enjoys the esteem and good will of all with whom he has come in contact.

CHARLES A. MILLER — One of the sterling pioneer citizens who achieved success and prosperity by coping vigorously with the opposing forces incidental to the development of a productive farm from the virgin prairie soil of Gage county, Mr. Miller acquired and improved one of the large landed estates of Clatonia township and continued as one of the active agriculturists and stockgrowers of this township until 1911, since which time he has lived retired in the village of Clatonia, where he erected a modern and attractive house,— a pleasant home in which he and his wife are enjoying the rewards of former years of earnest endeavor.

Mr. Miller was born in Lippe, Germany, on the 6th of December, 1851, a son of Frederick and Charlotte (Hartmann) Miller, he being the eldest of the three children and the only son; his elder sister, Minnie, who became the wife of Bernard Mooberg, is deceased; and Martha is the wife of William Sang, of Lancaster county, this state. Mr. Miller was about four years old when he accompanied his parents to America and the family home was established at Freeport, Illinois, where the father engaged in the work of his trade, that of wagonmaker. In 1878 Frederick Miller came with his family to Gage county and two miles north of Clatonia he purchased land, though he never engaged personally in farming, the place having been turned over to his only son: he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in this county, as honored pioneer citizens.

Charles A. Miller has achieved prosperity entirely through his own ability and efforts, and when but fourteen years of age he began working as farm hand in Illinois. His initial service included the planting of corn, which he dropped by hand and covered by throwing earth over the grain with his foot. For this work he received fifty cents a day, and his recompense for nine months work was not given in cash but in four loads of corn. During the winter months as a boy and youth he attended school at Davis, Illinois, and he was twenty-six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, where it devolved upon him to break up and otherwise improve the farm of one hundred and sixty acres which his father purchased in Clatonia township, the nearest market points at that time having been the villages of Cortland and Wilber. Each of his parents attained to the age of three score years and ten, his mother having passed away in 1893, and the father in 1894. Both were earnest members of the German Methodist church.

Prior to coming to Nebraska, Mr. Miller had gained pioneer experience in Oregon, to which state he made his way in 1874. He found employment on a farm near the city of Portland and received compensation of four hundred dollars a year, paid in gold. He remained in Oregon four years and then returned to Illinois, whence, soon afterward, he came to Nebraska. Industry and good management brought to him cumulative success in connection with farm enterprise in Gage county, and he eventually accumulated a valuable and well improved landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, in Section 11, Clatonia township. This property he has sold to his children. He used much discrimination in the improvement of his farm property and on the same set out both fruit and shade trees. One spring he planted sixty-five dollars' worth of fruit trees, a portion of which are still in bearing. Mr. Miller has contributed his share to the general development and progress of Gage county, is a Republican in politics and both he and his wife hold membership in the German Methodist church.

March 13, 1878, recorded the marriage of Mr. Miller to Miss Sophia Hanrichmeier, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, April 23, 1857, a daughter of Frederick and Amelia (Meyer) Hanrichmeier, who were natives of Germany and whose marriage occured in 1851, in Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives and where Mr. Hanrichmeier eventually became the owner of a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He was born February 2, 1828, and in 1848 he passed seven weeks in making the voyage across the Atlantic to America, on a sailing vessel. In Stephenson county, Illinois,

his first farm was one of forty acres, and on this homestead he maintained his residence twenty years, removal having then been made to a new house which he erected on the opposite side of the road. He died March 29, 1908, and his widow passed away June 23, 1914, she having been born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, August 26, 1833: of their nine children — three sons and six daughters — Mrs. Miller was the third in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Miller became the parents of six children: Paul is a prosperous farmer two miles north of Clatonia; Minnie is the wife of Charles C. Houpt, of Clatonia township; Charles is a resident of Kansas and Frederick of Texas; Wesley is a teacher in the public schools at Doniphan, Missouri; and Herbert is attending school at Warrington, Missouri, his plans being to locate on a farm in Colorado.

JERRY T. MANGUS, whose fine farm home is situated in Section 24, Midland township, has won large and worthy success through his association with farm enterprise in the county that has represented his home since he was about fourteen years of age, and as one of the substantial and well known citizens of the county he merits recognition in this history. He is a son of the late William Mangus, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages, so that further review of the family genealogy is not demanded at this juncture. Mr. Mangus was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, October 19, 1867, and there he acquired in the public schools his early education. In 1881 he came with his parents to Gage county and his father purchased a farm in Sherman township, so that Jerry T. had ample opportunity to gain fellowship with arduous toil in connection with the development and general operations of the pioneer farm. He attended school when opportunity afforded and finally he engaged independently in farm operations. For four years he farmed on rented land and he then purchased two hundred and twenty acres, in Midland township, where he has since continued his earnest and fruitful activities. In obtaining this property he assumed, as may be inferred, an appreciable indebtedness, but his energy and good management not only enabled him eventually to relieve himself entirely of such financial obligation but also to make the admirable improvements that mark his estate as one of the model farms of the county, his attractive residence being one of the best rural homes in Midland township, and all other farm buildings provided by him being of consonant order. As an exponent of farm industry Mr. Mangus has wisely diversified his activities and has made himself successful both as an agriculturist and as a raiser of good types of horses, cattle and swine. In politics he is to be designated as an independent Republican, and while he takes loyal interest in communal affairs and is liberal in supporting measures and enterprises advanced for the general good, he has manifested no ambition for public office. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

On the 20th of December, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mangus to Miss Elvina Reed, who was born, April 2, 1871, in the state of Iowa, and who was a girl when she came with her parents to Gage county, in the early '80s, her father, Enos Reed, having been a native of Illinois and having become one of the substantial farmers of Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Mangus became the parents of seven children, of whom five are living: Orville, who was born, February 26, 1895, and who was associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm, is, in the spring of 1918, in the national military forces preparing for service in the European war, and, as a member of Battery C, Second Artillery, is stationed at Fort McArthur, California; Josephine died January, 4, 1916, at the age of nineteen years; Oscar, who remains at the parental home, was born March 23, 1899; Wilda was born in December 18, 1901; Louise was seven years old at the time of her death, in 1910; John Thurston was born February 12, 1912; and LeNore was born June 5, 1917.

EDWIN B. HINDS

MRS. EDWIN B. HINDS

EDWIN B. HINDS. — A native of the Green Mountain state, the subject of this biography was born in Windham county, Vermont, November 21, 1842. He is a son of Charles C. and Lorena (Burke) Hinds, who were natives of Vermont and who left their New England home in 1855 and became residents of Clayton county, Iowa. Here the father passed away March 21, 1877, having rounded out sixty-eight years of a busy and honorable life. His estimable wife did not long survive the shock of his death, her death occurring on the 14th of the following August, when she was sixty-two years of age. They were the parents of two children: Edwin B. and Charles C., the latter heroically giving up his life for his country in the Civil war: he died May 14, 1863, at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. He was a member of Company B, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

Edwin B. Hinds was a boy of thirteen when the home was established in Iowa and his education, which was begun in his native state, was continued in the public schools of Iowa. When the Civil war broke out he longed to take part in it and he had not yet reached his majority when he enlisted, in August, 1862, as a private in Company M, First Iowa Cavalry, and for three years and six months he faithfully served the Union cause on many a hard fought battle field, his military record as a brave and efficient soldier being one of which he may well be proud. He took part in the battles of Prairie Grove, Little Rock, Camden and many others, and was with General Custer through Texas. He was mustered out in March, 1866, and returned home without a scar, although he took part in every battle in which his regiment participated.

Mr. Hinds' early education was supplemented by a course at Eastman's Business College, Chicago, after which he engaged as a clerk in a general merchandise store, later turning his attention to agricultural pursuits. Winding up his affairs in Iowa, he decided to seek a home farther west, and in May, 1881, he went to Washington county, Kansas, but not finding a suitable location he came to Odell, Nebraska, then a small village where the railroad was just being built. Here he established a hardware business which he successfully conducted for several years. He also invested in farm lands and in 1903 he entered the banking business, as president of Hinds State Bank, of which he has continued the head and principal owner. It is one of the strong financial institutions of Gage county and though its president is still active in its management, the active affairs of the bank are under the supervision of his son, Charles N., a worthy young man who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

December 1, 1870, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hinds and Miss Sarah Shaw, a native of Clayton county, Iowa, and a daughter of the late John Shaw.

Mr. Hinds has taken an active interest in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community. In 1893-95 he served in the lower house of the state legislature, and in 1895 was chairman of the railroad committee. He was the first director of the school board of the Odell district and served about twenty years as treasurer of the board. He is affiliated with Reserve Post, No. 148, Grand Army of the Republic, and with Odell Lodge No. 97, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Hinds is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

PERCY J. CHAPMAN. — The history of the early '80s in Gage county is made up of the rapid settlement of its lands by the numbers of people who came at this time to make their home upon her soil. One of the young men who came with his parents to Gage county is Percy J. Chapman, who is one of Blue Springs township's representative citizens.

Percy Chapman was born July 31, 1871, in Woodford county, Illinois, where his parents, John and Verona (Kellogg) Chapman, had lived for forty years previously to their coming to Gage county to make their home. John Chapman was born in 1825, in Connecticut, and in the early days of our nation's history his parents immigrated to the state of Ohio, where he received his education and learned the shoemaker's trade. In Vermont Mr.

Chapman was married to Verona Kellogg, who was born in 1834, in that state. In the early '40s Mr. and Mrs. Chapman moved to Illinois and for forty years they labored to win the living which would give their sons and daughters, growing up around them, strong minds and strong bodies. In 1885, after disposing of their land in Illinois, they came to Gage county, where John Chapman purchased two hundred and sixty acres of land and tilled it until his retirement to Beatrice. He passed from this life in 1903. His wife, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, is still residing in Beatrice. For further family history see Lee L. Chapman sketch in this volume.

The fourteen years of Percy J. Chapman's life spent in Illinois were under the parental roof, learning the lessons of childhood under their direction and that of the school teacher at the district school. He remained with his parents on the farm until his marriage, in 1895, to Millie M. Swett, who was born in Gage county. She is a daughter of Merton L. and Mary (LaGorgue) Swett, the former born in 1850, in Wisconsin, and the latter 1853, in Iowa. They commenced their home building in Gage county, where they married in 1873, and this was the home until 1914, when Mr. Swett retired to live in Beatrice, where he is still making his home. His wife passed away in 1908. Five children were born to them, three of whom are living — Millie M., wife of Percy J. Chapman; Effie, wife of W. H. Reid, living in Sicily township; and Hattie, the wife of E. W. Calkins, also in Sicily township.

Mr. Chapman has recently purchased the home farm where he lives and he is doing a general farming business, keeping a good grade of cattle and hogs. His lodge affiliations are with the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, his political views are in harmony with the Democratic party, and he is serving as township assessor at the present time (1918). He and his wife are members of the Brethren church. Three children, Clarence, Wesley, and Myrtle, have come to bless this home and are being educated to fill their places in the world.

HIRAM SIZER BARNUM, the subject of this sketch, was born at Buffalo, New York, November 11, 1837. His ancestry runs back to two well known New England families, the Barnums and Howards. His paternal grandparents, Eli Barnum and Mary (Dibble) Barnum, were both natives of the state of Connecticut. They were born and reared in the city of Danbury and were married there. After their marriage, in 1810, they emigrated to Trumbull county, Ohio, where they purchased land in the deep woods, three miles from the nearest settler. This they cleared and finally developed into a good farm. They also erected a flouring mill, on a stream known as Eagle creek. Their home was always the abode of free-hearted hospitality and the scene of many a cheerful gathering. Here Eli Barnum passed away at the age of seventy-six years, and his wife, Mary, surviving him, died at the age of eighty-five years.

Hiram Barnum, their son, was born on his father's Trumbull county farm in 1811, and obtaining a good, usable education, on reaching his majority, he made his way to Buffalo, New York, where he began life as a broker. Here he met and married Miss Irena Howard, a member of the well known Howard family of Vermont. Five children were the fruit of this marriage, three sons and two daughters. The daughters, Lucy and Mary, both died in childhood. The sons were Eli Howard Barnum, Hiram Sizer Barnum, and Samuel H. Barnum. The oldest son, Eli, after serving through the great Civil war with an Illinois regiment and accompanying Sherman on his "march to the sea," died many years ago in Illinois. Samuel H. Barnum, the youngest son, lost his life in the ranks of the Union army in the terrible battle of Chancellorsville, in May, 1863.

When the subject of this sketch was one year old, his parents moved from New York to Trumbull county, Ohio, then to Akron, in Summit county, and returning to Trumbull

county, finally settled on the ancestral estate of the Barnum family, where they remained until both had paid the last great debt of nature, Hiram passing away at the age of seventy-six years and his venerable wife at the age of ninety-three.

Hiram Sizer Barnum remained with his parents until the spring of 1859, when, accompanied by his cousin, Eli B. Hendy, he crossed the Missouri river at Nebraska City, on the 20th day of April, and entered the new territory of Nebraska. After several days spent there in inquiry and deliberation, they resolved to investigate the region of country known as the valley of the Big Blue river. Moving westward, the cousins, on May 24th, came to Blue Springs, in Gage county. On all their long journey they found little but a broad expanse of unbroken prairie, diversified to some extent by stream and wood, with here and there, along the timbered water-courses, a squatter on the public domain. At that time there were not to exceed one hundred white people in all Gage county, and save the smiling face that nature wore, there was nothing to attract the young and aspiring. But the spell of the wide, rolling prairie, the dark-blue sky and the far mystery of distances fell upon them, and these young men, with the prevision of the true pioneer, resolved to cast their lots with the handful of settlers whom they found here clinging to the very rim of civilization. Both were poor, but they possessed the alchemy of youth, which, like the philosopher's stone, turns everything it touches into silver and gold. They settled on vacant tracts of prairie land in Blue Springs township, about two miles north of Blue Springs, and at once became identified with the destiny of Gage county and of the great territory of which it formed a part. Mr. Hendy, shortly after his arrival here, married Caroline C. Coffinberry, a member of a pioneer family of Rockford township, and was one of the early sheriffs of Gage county. Years ago he returned to New Jersey to live, and there, at a ripe old age and much respected, he passed away several years ago. Mr. Barnum except for a temporary residence in another county of the state, has always remained a citizen of Gage county. Though stricken with age and weakness, he is still a living representative of that heroic band of pioneers who were the first to brave the dangers and hardships attending the early settlement of Gage county.

Mr. Barnum has always led the life of a farmer or a business man. The single exception to this is his service in the army during the Civil war. On the 1st day of September, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, Curtis Horse, a Nebraska military organization which was afterward united with the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, and he served as a soldier in defence of the Union until November 11, 1862, when he was honorably discharged, for disabilities received in the line of duty, at Hieman, in the state of Kentucky.

Mr. Barnum acquired title to one hundred and twenty acres of land in Blue Springs township, where he resided until 1870, when he sold his stock and farm produce and with the proceeds purchased lumber at Brownville, on the Missouri river, which he hauled to Blue Springs with wagons, a distance of seventy miles, and erected a small house in that village. He also built a rough stable for his own use. There being at that time no accommodations for travelers at Blue Springs, Mr. Barnum hospitably opened his house and barn to travelers, and gradually this expanded until it became a business of considerable importance. "Barnum's Pioneer Livery Stable" at Blue Springs was known far and wide in this section of country, and his home for many years partook of the nature of a wayside inn. In 1899 Mr. Barnum sold his business in Blue Springs and moved to Beatrice, where he purchased a residence on East Court street, where he now resides.

On the 19th day of April, 1863, Mr. Barnum married Mrs. Myra (Shelley) Rappleye, who was the daughter of Francis and Fanny (Hollingsworth) Shelley, pioneer settlers of Rockford township. She was born in Derbyshire, England, and came with her parents to America when a girl fourteen years of age. She was a very capable woman, and the object of the affection of a large circle of rela-

tives and friends. She died at Beatrice on the 15th day of December, 1913, leaving behind her the memory of a beautiful life. The fruit of this marriage was two sons and two daughters. One son, Samuel, died in infancy. The other, Eli Howard Barnum, was born at Blue Springs, grew to manhood there, and in 1892, married Miss Clara Robertson. He is now a member of a well known stock-commission firm in Omaha. The daughters, Kate and Rosa, were both for some years school teachers. The elder daughter, Kate, in 1891, married Josiah A. Van Orsdel, at Blue Springs, and almost immediately they left for Cheyenne, Wyoming, where Mr. Van Orsdel engaged in the practice of law. He was for some years attorney general of the state of Wyoming and associate justice of the supreme court of that state. For the past ten years he has been associate justice of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia and lives the greater part of the year in Washington, When not engaged in official duty, his home is in Beatrice, where he owns an elegant residence, at the corner of Thirteenth and Washington streets. The younger daughter, Rosa, in 1901, married Dr. B. L. Spellman, a leading dentist in the city of Beatrice. They live in a pleasant home at the corner of Tenth and Ella streets.

Mr. Barnum in his old age is surrounded by his children and grandchildren, who tenderly watch over his declining years and with great solicitude minister to his every want. Behind him lie many years of honorable and blameless life, and with an unfaltering trust in Almighty God he approaches the time when he may wrap the drapery of couch around him and lie down to pleasant dreams.

ALVIN D. SPENCER. — The life story of Alvin D. Spencer, banker, ex-representative, and ex-senator, is a record of the doings of a successful man of affairs who has won his place in the citizenship of Barneston by virtue of a decided ability of a high order.

Mr. Spencer was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, November 21, 1870, and is the youngest son of Oscar and Mary (Daniels) Spencer., Oscar Spencer was born in 1833, in Jefferson county, New York, the son of Samuel Spencer, who also named Jefferson county, New York, as his birthplace. Samuel Spencer was a cooper by trade and followed his trade all of his life, the latter years were spent in Lincoln, Nebraska, where his decease occurred in 1899. His son, Oscar Spencer, was given a very good education, fitting him for his life work of bookkeeper. For a few years was a school teacher in New York, but later took up bookkeeping at Freeport, Illinois, with a harvester company. September 19, 1854, he married Mary Daniels, who was the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Tucker) Daniels. She was born in Jefferson county, which was also the birthplace of her parents. Mr. Daniels was a cooper by trade and was laid to rest in Adams, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Spencer, in 1862, came to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and first located in Nora, Illinois, where they remained for some years. Mr. Spencer then was employed in the thriving city of Freeport, same county, as a bookkeeper. As the years progressed, four sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, as follows: Jay A. is in the hardware business at Barneston, Nebraska; Edson R. is in the wholesale casket and undertaking supplies business at Des Moines, Iowa; Evelyn O. is in the same business, located at Wichita, Kansas; Alvin D. is the subject of this sketch.

In 1877 Oscar Spencer came to Lincoln, Nebraska, and was employed as a bookkeeper in the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company's general agency. He was a member of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. His life was an inspiration to his sons, who have taken their positions in the world of affairs. Both he and his good wife are deceased. The former died in Lincoln, and the latter at Barnston, in 1909.

Alvin D. Spencer attended the public schools of Lincoln and his education was supplemented by a course at the F. F. Roos Business College at Lincoln, which fitted him for his life work of bookkeeper and banker.

For a number of years Mr. Spencer was

employed as bookkeeper in McCormick Harvester Company's main office at Lincoln. In this position he was so capable and rendered such efficient service that he was elected the cashier of the forenamed company in 1896. He continued in this position until he severed his connections with the McCormick Harvester Company, in 1898, and purchased the Bank of Barneston, at Barnestone, Nebraska. This institution is capitalized at $5,000; with a surplus of $1,000; undivided profits, $1,425; deposits, $140,000. For a number of years, Mr. Spencer was the owner of the Spencer Elevator at Barneston, but he has discontinued this business and confines his efforts to the banking business.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, January 25, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Alvin D. Spencer and Miss Emma Glover. She is the daughter of Peter and Mary (Crawford) Glover, farmers in Lancaster county. Mrs. Spencer was born March 22, 1873, in Malcomb, and was educated at Lincoln institutions of learning. No children have been born to this union.

Mr. Spencer exercises his right of franchise by voting the Republican ticket and upholding its principles in national, state, and local affairs. In 1900 the voters of district No. 34, composed of Gage and Saline counties, elected Mr. Spencer to represent them in the twenty-seventh session of the house of representatives. In 1916 he was elected state senator, from the Fourteenth district, composed of Gage and Pawnee counties. In these two houses of our law-making institution he served his people faithfully and well, looking after the best interests of his district and the state at large.

He has served as treasurer and clerk and village trustee for years and is now clerk. He has also been justice of the peace of Barneston township and a member of the local school board. In all of these positions, he has shown a rare genius of administering the affairs of his fellow voters in a highly efficient manner.

Mr. Spencer is a member of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and in this great fraternal organization he has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He and his esteemed wife affiliate with the Presbyterian church and are giving of their time and talents unstintingly.

IRA W. EVANS, D. V. S., Beatrice, Nebraska, was born in Fillmore county, Nebraska, December 8, 1886, a son of C. L. and Lucy (Ward) Evans.

C. L. Evans was born in Ohio and when a young man moved to Iowa, where he engaged in farming. About forty-five years ago Mr. Evans came to Fillmore county, Nebraska, where he took a homestead near what is now the town of Geneva. A few years later Mr. Evans was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Ward, of Geneva, Nebraska, and to this union were born six children: Albert, superintendent of schools at Dow City, Iowa; Le Roy, of Fairbury, Nebraska; Jay, a merchant of La Porte, Indiana; Dr. Ira W., of Beatrice, Nebraska; Mary, widow of W. L. Martin, living in Omaha, Nebraska; and Iva, wife of William Bennett, of Iowa. C. L. Evans has now retired and makes his home in Omaha, Nebraska. His wife passed away July 27, 1915.

Dr. Ira W. Evans was educated in the schools of Geneva, Nebraska, and is a graduate of the Kansas City Veterinary College, class of 1915. He began the practice of his profession in Bruning, Nebraska, in 1915, and remained there until April, 1917, when he moved to Beatrice, where he has built up a fine practice, where he enjoys the confidence of the people, and where he is considered one of the leading veterinarians in the community.

ARON E. CLAASSEN is consistently to be designated as one of the sterling pioneer citizens of Gage county, is a man of vigorous mentality and impregnable integrity and through his own well directed endeavors he has become one of the representative exponents of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in Gage county, where he is the owner of a valuable landed estate of seven hundred and twenty acres, his finely improved homestead farm being situated in Section 18, Riverside township, five miles west of the city of Beatrice. Mr. Claassen still gives a general supervision to his extensive farm interests,

though the active management of the farms is now reposed in his sons, who are well upholding the industrial and civic prestige of the family name. He has much of his land under a high state of cultivation and also makes a specialty of breeding and raising the best type of Hampshire swine.

Mr. Claassen was born in the west Prussian province of Dantzic, Germany, May 28, 1850, and is a son of John and Catherine (Entz) Claassen, of whose three children he is the firstborn, his father having been twice married and having passed his entire life in that section of the German empire. After his death his widow came with her three children to America, in 1874, and after remaining for a time in Canada she became a member of the company of one hundred and twenty-eight Mennonites who founded a colony at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and she passed the closing years of her life in Beatrice, where she died at the age of seventy-three years, she having been a devout member of the Mennonite church, as was also her husband. The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in his native land and was twenty-four years of age when he accompanied his widowed mother to America. He remained for a time with the Mennonite colony at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and then set forth to seek a location in which he might successfully initiate his independent activities as a farmer. In this quest he traveled through Minnesota, Kansas, and Nebraska, and finally, in 1876, he and his brother Jacob purchased a section of land in Riverside township, Gage county, his present homestead farm being a part of this tract. The brothers here continued to be closely associated in their farm enterprise for seven years, and in the meanwhile both married. The passing years, marked by diligent and well directed application and progressive policies, have brought generous prosperity to the honored subject of this review, and the tangible evidence is afforded in his ownership of his present large and well improved landed estate.

On the 9th of January, 1879, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Claassen to Miss Anna Jansen, who has proved a devoted wife and helpmeet and the gracious mother of their fine family of children. Mrs. Claassen was born in Prussia, Germany, March 23, 1856, and was a child of six months when her parents, Cornelius and Helena (VonRiesen) Jansen, removed to Russia, where she was reared and educated. In 1873 Mr. Jansen came with his family to America and settled near Berlin, Waterloo county, Ontario, Canada, whence he later removed to Mount Pleasant, Iowa, as a member of the previously mentioned Mennonite colony. In 1876 he came with his family to Gage county, where he became an extensive land owner but made his home in Beatrice. Here he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. They became the parents of six children: Margaret died in childhood; Peter, who is now living retired in the city of Beatrice, was long numbered among the leading ranchers of the state and is an influential citizen who represented in the state senate the district comprising Gage, Pawnee, and Jefferson counties; Mrs. Claassen was next in order of birth; John is now a resident of Saskatchewan, Canada; Miss Helen maintains her residence in Beatrice; and Cornelius, who was formerly a popular teacher in the public schools of Beatrice, is now a resident of Pasadena, California. In politics Mr. Claassen is a liberal Republican, more for the man than party, and as a citizen he has been most liberal and progressive. Both he and his wife are earnest members of the Mennonite church and their sterling attributes have gained and retained to them the high regard of all who know them. Of their ten children the first two died in infancy; Cornelius is cashier of the Peters Trust Company, in the city of Omaha; John J. has active management of the old homestead farm; Aron J. is a successful farmer in Lincoln township; Daniel died at the age of ten years; Anna is, in 1918, a student in the University of Nebraska, at Lincoln; Catherine is a student in a hospital for trained nurses, in the city of Omaha; the ninth child died in infancy; and Margaret remains at the parental home.

JASPER H. PENCE is a successful exponent of farm enterprise in Logan township, where he is the owner of a good farm of one hundred acres, in Section 5, and where he is conducting well ordered operations as an agriculturist and stockgrower. He was born in Adams county, Ohio, November 24, 1857, was reared to the sturdy discipline of his father's farm and received in his youth the advantages of the common schools, his parents, Harrison and Mary J. Pence having passed their entire lives in Adams county, Ohio, and having been representatives of sterling pioneer families of the Buckeye state.

In his native state Jasper H. Pence continued his alliance with farm enterprise until 1884, when he came to Nebraska and established his residence in Gage county. For several years thereafter he was engaged in farming on rented land and he then purchased forty acres, to which he later added an adjoining forty acres. He made improvements on this property and upon selling the same he purchased his present homestead, upon which he has since continued his successful enterprise as a substantial farmer, the while he is known for his sterling integrity and for his loyalty as a citizen. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and he and his wife became in their youth active members of the Church of the Brethren, with which he has continued his earnest affiliation.

As a young man of twenty-six years Mr. Pence wedded Miss Mary E. Roush, who likewise was born in Ohio, and her death occurred December 24, 1900. She is survived by four children — Walter S., Grace, Edna, and Clifford D.

HERMAN CARSTENS is the owner of a fine farm of six hundred and twenty acres, in Sections 11, 12, and 13, Riverside township, where in addition to general agricultural production he gives attention also to the raising of Poland-China swine and graded short-horn cattle.

Mr. Carstens was born in Adams county, Illinois, November 14, 1869, and is a son of George and Hattie (Harmke) Carstens, to whom four children were born. After the death of his first wife George Carstens wedded Miss Lulu Bowser, and of this union were likewise born four children. George Carstens was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in October, 1828, and was one of the venerable and honored citizens of Gage county at the time of his death, in 1910. He came to America in the year 1858 and after remaining for a time in Brown county, Illinois, he removed to Clayton township, Adams county, that state, where he became a prosperous farmer. In 1890 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and settled in Hanover township, where he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land and where he continued his association with farm industry until his death, his religious faith having been that of the Lutheran church. Of the children of his first marriage the eldest is Anna, wife of Bartdel Aden, of Hanover township; Minnie is the wife of George Ordgisen, of Hildreth, Franklin county; Richard is a resident of Meadow Grove, Madison county; and Herman, of this review is the youngest, he having been two years old at the time of his mother's death. John G., eldest child of the second marriage, is a farmer of Adams township; Christopher W. is a resident of Jefferson county; Paul is a substantial farmer in Hanover township and with him remains his sister, Mary, the mother having died in 1916, at the age of seventy-eight years.

Herman Carstens was a young man at the time of the family removal to Gage county and he was assisted by his father in gaining a start as an independent farmer. In 1901 he purchased a portion of his present well improved farm estate and to the area of the same he has since added until he now has one of the valuable farm properties of the county. In politics he is a Republican and he served for a number of years as treasurer of Riverside township, an office which he resigned in 1916. He and his wife are active communicants of the Lutheran church.

April 14, 1892, recorded the marriage of Mr. Carstens to Miss Anna Schuster, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, November 9,

WALTER E. HOYLE AND FAMILY

1870. Of this union have been born nine children: George is a successful farmer in Riverside township; Henry was drowned in Blue river, July 13, 1913; Mary is the wife of Heye Schuster, of this county; and Ella, Minnie, Leah, Paul, John H., and Emma remain at the parental home.

WALTER E. HOYLE is numbered among the progressive and successful exponents of farm industry in Holt township, where he is the owner of the northwest quarter of Section 14, and where he is giving his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-growing and makes a specialty of raising graded Duroc-Jersey swine. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, January 17, 1876, a son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Fritz) Hoyle, of whose six children the eldest is Cora, wife of Ed. C. Willie, of Midland township; Jennie B. is the wife of Benjamin Wheeler, of Delta, Colorado; Passamore is a substantial farmer in Holt township; Walter E., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Eugene likewise is identified with farm enterprise in this county; and Margaret is the wife of Albert J. Reedy, of Lincoln, this state.

Solomon Hoyle was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1835, and from the old Keystone state he went to Illinois, where he remained until 1879, when he came with his family to Gage county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hanover township. There his death occurred in the following year, and his widow, who was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, November 1, 1856, later became the wife of Frederick Schober, both being now deceased, her death having occurred in 1912. The one surviving child of this marriage is Julia, wife of Howard Rutter, a farmer in Lincoln township, this county. Frederick Schober, was a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. By his first marriage he became the father of three children. The parents of Mr. Hoyle were earnest members of the United Brethren church and their remains rest in the cemetery in Holt township.

Walter E. Hoyle was three years of age when his parents came to Gage county, and here he was reared on the farm, in the meanwhile profiting by the advantages afforded in the district schools. He has followed farming during his entire active career and purchased his present farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in 1909, since which time he has made excellent improvements on the place. He is independent in politics and he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church, in which he is serving as trustee.

September 25, 1907, Mr. Hoyle wedded Miss Bessie Rutter, who was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of Clarence H. and Ermina (Flowers) Rutter, who now reside on their farm south of Beatrice, Mrs. Rutter being a daughter of the late John Flowers, one of the well known pioneers of Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle have three children, — Ermina, Ralph and Luther.

CONRAD W. FRITZ is one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Hooker township, where his well improved homestead, in Section 23, gives full evidence of thrift and effective management.

Conrad William Fritz was born in the city of Joliet, Illinois, November 14, 1879, and is a son of Frederick and Johanna (Hacke) Fritz, both natives of Germany. The father was born in 1834 and was a resident of Gage county at the time of his death, September 13, 1907, his widow, who was born in 1842, remaining with her son Conrad W. on the old homestead farm. Frederick Fritz came to the United States shortly before the outbreak of the Civil war and his deep loyalty to the country of his adoption was shown in his three years of gallant service as a Union soldier. He enlisted in Company F, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry, and with the same he continued in service until he was so severely wounded as to incapacitate him and to result in his honorable discharge. He later established his residence in Illinois, where his marriage was solemnized and where he was employed two years as a guard in the state penitentiary at Joliet. He then turned his attention to farming, in Will county, Illinois, and in 1890 he

came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Hooker township. He erected a good house and made other excellent improvements on the place and continued as one of the representative farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Hooker township until his death. He was a Republican in politics, was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and was a Lutheran in his religious faith, his widow being a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church. Of the five children the subject of this review is the youngest of the four who survive the honored father; Amelia is the wife of Edward Gingery, of Filley township; George is a farmer near Crab Orchard, Johnson county; and John is engaged in farming in Hooker township.

Conrad W. Fritz gained his early education in the public schools of Illinois and later attended those of Hooker township, Gage county, he having been about ten years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. He has been actively identified with farm enterprise since his early youth and has been specially prosperous in his independent activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. He owns eighty acres of land in Section 14, Hooker township, and here he has erected good farm buildings, the place being a part of the old home farm of his parents and his residence being the commodious house erected by his father. He owns also an interest in the remainder of the old homestead of his father.

In 1902 Mr. Fritz married Miss Hattie I. Kritner, who was born at Sterling, Johnson county, this state, and they have four children — Elise, Milda, Florence, and Virgie.

Mr. Fritz has been influential in public affairs in Hooker township, is a stalwart advocate of the cause of the Republican party and has served as a member of the county Republican committee. He served two years, 1912-1913, as township assessor, and in 1916 was reëlected to this office, for a term of two years. He has served nine years as school director and was reëlected to this office in 1917, for another term of three years. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife are active members of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM KREBSBACH is a vigorous and ambitious young man who has through his own exertions achieved substantial success and gained for himself secure status as a representative agriculturist and stock-grower of Gage county. His well improved farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres and is situated in Section 14, Sherman township.

Mr. Krebsbach was born in Polk county, Nebraska, May 19, 1880, and the somewhat limited educational advantages which he there received have been effectively supplemented by well ordered self-discipline, with the result that he has in large degree made good this early handicap. He is a son of John and Gertrude (Smith) Krebsbach, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter in the state of Wisconsin, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they came to Nebraska and became pioneer settlers in Polk county. There John Krebsbach entered claim to a homestead and he continued his alliance with farm industry in this state until about 1905, when he sold his farm in Polk county and removed to El Campo, Texas, near which place he engaged in farming. He is now successfully engaged in the banking and investment business at El Campo. He is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church. Of their thirteen children seven are living and of the number the subject of this review is the only one residing in Gage county.

William Krebsbach continued his residence in his native county until 1898, when he came to Gage county, where for the ensuing two years he was employed by the month at farm work. For fourteen years thereafter he farmed on land which he rented from D. S. Dalbey, and in 1910 he purchased his present farm, which has since been the stage of his aggressive and successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. He gives his allegiance to the Republican party and he and

his wife are members of the Christian church.

November 21, 1900, recorded the marriage of Mr. Krebsbach to Miss Ida Erickson, and they have four children — John Peter, Ida Belle, Maynard, and Wilma.

HANS ANDERSEN came to Gage county when a young man and by his vigorous and progressive activities as a farmer he achieved such success as to enable him at the present time to live in well earned retirement from the active labors that were long his portion. He still retains ownership of his well improved farm estate of two hundred acres, in Hooker township, but in 1909 he purchased six acres of land in the village of Filley and on the same erected the attractive and modern home in which he and his wife have since resided.

Mr. Andersen was born in Denmark, on the 21st of April, 1855, and is a son of Nils Andersen, who was born in 1830 and who passed the closing years of his life in Gage county, where he died on the 3d of February, 1917, his vocation having been that of farming during his entire active career. Upon coming to Gage county he rented land and he was engaged in farming on land obtained under Scully lease at the time of his death, this farm being in Filley township, where his widow still remains on the place. The subject of this sketch is the eldest in a family of three children; Marie is the wife of John H. Moller, of Bruce, Wisconsin, where her husband holds the office of postmaster and is engaged in the real estate business; and the third child died in infancy. After the death of his first wife the father contracted a second marriage, and his widow still resides on the farm which he operated in Gage county, as previously noted, the five children of the second marriage all surviving the honored father. Mr. Andersen was a Democrat in politics and was a member of the Lutheran church.

Hans Andersen was reared and educated in his native land and was twenty-three years of age when he became a resident of Gage county, in 1878. For two years he was here employed by the month at farm work, and he then initiated the independent farm operations that led ultimately to his achieving large and substantial success. His civic loyalty has been of the highest order, his political support is given to the Republican party and he has served as road supervisor, as well as a member of the school board. Both he and his wife are communicants of the Lutheran church but in their home village they attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church. The maiden name of Mrs. Andersen was Marie Nelsen, and she was born and reared in Denmark, where her parents passed their entire lives. Mr. and Mrs. Andersen have no children.

JAY P. AND MASON D. CLOUGH, popular representatives of one of the honored pioneer families of Gage county, were closely associated in operating two hundred and twenty acres, in Highland township, until the former entered the service of the nation in connection with its participation in the great world war, as will be more fully noted in a later paragraph. In Section 21, this township, Jay P. Clough was born on the 12th of November, 1885, a son of Marion M. and Ellen H. (Dodge) Clough, of whose eight children he was fifth in order of birth; Nettie E. is the wife of William J. Leopold, of Orleans, Harlan county; Alta P. is the wife of Ariel A. Gillespie, of Cortland, Gage county; Mary V. is the wife of Thomas Walter Sargent, of Highland township; Florence is deceased, as are also Dessa A. and John R.; and Mason D., who was born May 28, 1890, became the able coadjutor of his brother Jay P. in well ordered operations as agriculturists and stockgrowers.

Marion M. Clough, a man of marked ability and sterling character, became one of the extensive stock-growers and ranch men of Gage county and was a renter of Scully land — of seven hundred and twenty acres in Highland township. He was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, March 3, 1834, a son of Horace P. and Ann (Brown) Clough, both natives of the state of New York; the mother died in Illinois, in 1867, and the father passed the closing years of his life in Gage county, Nebras-

ka, where he died at a venerable age. Marion M. Clough was reared on the home farm, received the advantages of the common schools and at the age of fifteen years initiated an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade. In 1854 he engaged in the work of his trade in Henry county, Illinois, and in 1859 he established his residence at Sparta, Monroe county, Wisconsin, where he was actively identified with the lumber business until the outbreak of the Civil war. In August, 1861, he enlisted as private in Company A, Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and with his command he was assigned to the Army of the Frontier. He participated in several of the historic battles in which this army was involved, including the ten days' conflict incidental to the raid of General Price in Missouri. While engaged in repelling bushwhackers his horse was shot from under him, but he was neither wounded nor captured. He was made corporal of his company, in 1862 was promoted sergeant and he was mustered out with the rank of orderly sergeant, his honorable discharge having been granted in February, 1865.

After the close of the war Mr. Clough engaged in overland freighting from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Denver, Colorado. After one year of activity along this line he engaged in farming and stock-growing in southwestern Missouri, where he remained until 1873, when he and his wife established their home in Gage county, Nebraska. Here he reclaimed a farm in Highland township, besides becoming one of the leading stock raisers and dealers of this county. He remained an honored and influential citizen until his death, which occurred May 10, 1903, his widow having passed away December 14, 1916. Mr. Clough had broad and varied experience in life on the frontier and as a pioneer in Nebraska. He was affiliated actively with Monitor Post, No. 84, Grand Army of the Republic, at Cortland, and both he and his wife were active members of the Congregational church, of which he served as a deacon for a long term of years. The Clough family was founded in America in the colonial days and Horace Clough, grandfather of Marion M., was a native of New Hampshire.

December 2, 1865, Marion M. Clough wedded Miss Ellen H. Dodge, whose acquaintance he formed while serving as a soldier of the Union, in Missouri. She was born in Vernon county, Missouri, July 2, 1847, a daughter of Edward and Phoebe (Austin) Dodge, natives of New Hampshire, the latter having been a daughter of Daniel Austin, one of the founders of the Harmony Mission for the Osage Indians and a man prominent in the pioneer history of Missouri.

Jay P. and Mason D. Clough have passed their entire lives thus far in Gage county and have upheld the honors of the family name, both as progressive farmers and as liberal and public-spirited citizens. The brothers in their business alliance proved specially successful agriculturists and stock-growers and they have a wide circle of friends in their native county, where both received excellent educational advantages.

At the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, Jay P. Clough is serving his country in connection with its participation in the terrific European conflict. He is a member of the signal corps being prepared for active service at the aviation field maintained in the government camp at Greenfield, South Carolina, and ere this work is issued from the press he will have undoubtedly been called to service on the battlefields of France.

On the fourth of December, 1917, Mason D. Clough married Miss Bernice M. Culp, who was born at Princeton, Lancaster county, Nebraska, September 1, 1895. She is a daughter of George and Mary E. (Connor) Culp, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Iowa. Mr. Culp is living in Gage county and is eighty years of age (1918). He was a valiant Union soldier in the Civil war. His wife died in 1901, at the age of forty-two years.

GEORGE W. CAMPBELL. — Among the early settlers of Adams township may be mentioned the venerable pioneer whose name introduces this review, and none is more worthy of recognition in this history than he. A na-

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Campbell

tive of the Keystone state, Mr. Campbell was born on a farm in East Smithfield township, Bradford county Pennsylvania, on May the 3d, 1835. He is a son of George W. and Harriet (Kingsley) Campbell, also natives of Bradford county, and of German and Scotch Irish descent respectively. The father conducted a saw mill for a number of years, though later he became a farmer, and he and his wife spent their entire lives in Bradford county, Pennsylvania.

The subject of this record spent his boyhood days in his native county, attended country school until he had attained the age of fifteen years, and in the meanwhile he worked in the saw mill and on the farm. At the age of twenty he married Miss Mary Dewey, who was born in Chenango county, Pennsylvania, August 4, 1834, a daughter of John and Polly (Holmes) Dewey, both natives of New York state. As a girl Mrs. Campbell was bereft of her father and thereafter she made her home with a sister in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where she taught school. She is a third cousin of Admiral Dewey, the hero of Manila Bay in the Spanish-American war.

The year after his marriage Mr. Campbell removed to Illinois and settled in Carroll county. While a resident there, a cloud arose which threatened to disrupt the Union, and when President Lincoln made the first call for volunteers Mr. Campbell responded by enlisting in Company B, Seventh Illinois Cavalry. The members of this company were mustered in at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, and from that place, by way of Cairo, they went to Bird's Point, Missouri, where they joined the forces of General Grant, under whose command they did skirmish duty and were ordered to Shiloh, reaching that place just after the famous battle. They took part in the first expedition against Vicksburg, but lack of supplies forced them to return to LaGrange, Tennessee. They were then placed on guard of the Tennessee river, but the approach of Price caused them to fall back to Corinth, and they took part in the second battle at that place. The winter of 1862 they spent in camp at LaGrange, Tennessee, and in the spring of 1863 they opened the Grayston raid, of sixteen days. In six days of that time Company B, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, rode four hundred and twenty-five miles by itself, fighting all along the way. At the siege of Port Hudson they guarded the road with much credit and then took boats to Memphis. They then went to Colliersville, Tennessee, and while on picket duty there Mr. Campbell, with twenty-five of the forty-nine men thus engaged, was captured during the fight of November 3, 1863. There were five hundred Union men against two thousand Confederates. The prisoners were taken to Cahoba, Alabama, where they were kept until April, 1864, when they were transferred to Andersonville Prison. The horrors of this place could not be exaggerated, awful suffering, unmitigated by a gleam of humanity on the part of their captors, made the lives of the weary victims a wretched mockery. Nauseous food, impure water, crowded and vermin-infested quarters, contributed to disease and death, which took away all but eight of the company of twenty-six. Mr. Campbell and his companions were kept there until August, 1864, when they were removed to Charleston. There they were kept four weeks, and they were then taken to Florence, where Mr. Campbell was released on sick parole. Upon regaining his health Mr. Campbell went to Annapolis, Maryland, and from there he made his way to his father's home, in Pennsylvania, where he arrived in January 1865. In April of that year Mr. Campbell received his honorable discharge, after having served three years and six months. Four hundred and seventeen days of that time, however, he was held as a captive of the enemy. After returning to his family, in Illinois, Mr. Campbell was unable to work for about one year, but gradually he resumed farming.

In the spring of 1868, accompanied by his wife and their two children, Mr. Campbell started for the west and located in Nebraska, the prairies of the new state being largely unsettled at that time. He homesteaded one hundred and twenty acres in section 33, Adams township, Gage county. During the first year in the state Mr. Campbell and his family lived

in a covered wagon, and with a team of mules and one yoke of oxen he broke the prairies on his own land, beside which he worked for neighbors. Nebraska City was the nearest trading point, and Mr. Campbell hauled freight from that place to Beatrice, the county seat, which was only a little village at that time. From Nebraska City Mr. Campbell hauled cottonwood lumber to build his first house. He resolutely set to work improving and developing his farm, and he is to-day one of the few homesteaders who still reside on the same farms which they obtained in the early pioneer days. On his present fine farm he has lived for fifty years, during which time he has prospered.

To Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were born six children: Dewey is residing at Buffalo, Wyoming; Nettie and Hattie are deceased; John resides in Adams, this county; E. W. is a resident of Clarion, Iowa; and George B. lives at Fort Morgan, Colorado.

Some years ago Mr. Campbell let the mantle of intelligently directed industry fall upon his son John W., who now owns and operates the old home place in his own behalf. George W. Campbell and his wife still reside on the old home place, where they have lived and labored side by side all these years, that their children and their children's children might reap the benefit.

Mr. Campbell has always taken a deep interest in the affairs of his community and has maintained pleasant relationship with his army comrades by membership in Sergeant Cox Post, No. 100, Grand Army of the Republic, at Adams. In the Civil war it took men of heart, brains and heroism to bear the brunt of the conflict, the toil and suffering in camp and on the march and to face starvation in prison, but Mr. Campbell was one of those valiant souls, and his life as a pioneer in Gage county reveals the same characteristics as were displayed by him during the days when he fought for the preservation of the Union.

JOHN M. MARTIN, as noted in the memoir dedicated to his honored father, the late Thomas M. Martin, on other pages of this publication, remains with his widowed mother on the old homestead farm, of which he has the active management, the same being one of the fine landed estates of Sherman township. On this farm Mr. Martin was born September 16, 1872, and his early educational advantages were those afforded in the public schools of his native township. He learned under the direction of his father the valuable lessons of practical industry and gained incidentally a thorough knowledge of the various details of farm enterprise. He has had no desire to sever his allegiance to the great basic industry under the influence of which he was thus reared and he now rents from his mother the old homestead farm, in the operations of which he is proving himself a most aggressive and successful exponent of agricultural and live-stock enterprise, the while he is upholding the civic and industrial prestige of a family name that has been worthily linked with the history of Gage county during the entire period of Nebraska statehood.

Mr. Martin is one of the influential and popular citizens of Sherman township, and has served as a member of the school board, an office of which he has been the efficient incumbent ten years. In the city of Beatrice he is affiliated with Aerie No. 351 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

February 16, 1898, recorded the marriage of Mr. Martin to Miss Nellie Lash, who likewise was born in this county, and they have one child, Margaret, who is, in 1918, a student in the public schools at Holmesville.

FRANK SCHOEN is the fortunate owner of a remarkably fine farm property of three hundred and thirty acres, improved with the best farm buildings to be found in Hooker township, where his attractive homestead is in Section 27. This distinct evidence of prosperity is the more pleasing to note by reason of the fact that Mr. Schoen was dependent entirely on his own ability and efforts in making his way to the goal of independence. He was born in the district of Friesland, province of Hanover, Germany, on the 27th of September, 1867, a son of Ahrend and Tina (John-

son) Schoen, who passed their entire lives in that section of the German empire.

Frank Schoen was reared and educated in his native province and at the age of seventeen years he severed the home ties and set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. For eight years after his arrival he was employed at farm work in Illinois, and in 1892 he came to Nebraska and established his residence in Gage county. For the ensuing nine years he farmed on a Scully lease, in Hanover township, and he then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Hooker township — the present Stevens farm. In 1909, after selling this farm, he purchased his present fine estate of three hundred and thirty acres, the buildings, as intimated previously, being of model order, the farm having woven-wire fences, and an attractive evergreen grove adding to the beauty of the place. The same thrift and industry which enabled Mr. Schoen to accumulate this property are brought to bear in its management, and he stands forth as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of Hooker township, as well as a substantial and popular citizen. He is a Republican in politics but has held no public office save that of road supervisor. He is vice-president of the Adams State Bank.

As a young man Mr. Shoen married Miss Mary Rathe, who was born in the vicinity of the city of Chicago, Illinois, and they have three children: Frank F. is a member of the military forces being prepared for service in the great European war and at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, he is stationed with his command at Deming, New Mexico; and Henry and Louis remain at the parental home.

Residence of Frank Schoen

JAMES E. BALDERSON is another of the honored citizens who is a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of Gage county and who has here achieved large and worthy

success as a vigorous exponent of farm industry. He is the owner of a valuable landed estate of four hundred acres, in Section 21, Highland township, and is now living virtually retired, his sons having the active management of his farms.

Mr. Balderson was born in Morgan county, Ohio, April 1, 1850, a son of George and Sarah (Davis) Balderson, of whose family of fourteen children eleven attained to maturity, as here noted: Mary, who became the wife of Alvin White, was a resident of Fairbury, Nebraska, at the time of her death; Rhoda is the wife of A. B. McNickle, of Ashland, Kansas; Alexander was a resident of Highland township, Gage county, at the time of his demise; James E., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Scott resides in the city of Beatrice, this county; Frank is employed in a hospital at Hastings, this state; George resides at Pickrell, Holt township; Mrs. Anna Groff was a resident of Fairbury at the time of her death; Jacob is an influential citizen of Wilber, Saline county, where he is serving as mayor, in 1917-1918; Mrs. Alice Clark is a resident of Austin, Minnesota; and Mrs. Martha Snoker resides in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska.

George Balderson was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, September 5, 1819, and in the old Buckeye state his marriage to Miss Sarah Davis was solemnized in 1841, his wife having been born in Maine, in 1821. Mr. Balderson engaged in farming in Morgan county, Ohio, and in 1864 he removed with his family to Whiteside county, Illinois, where he remained similarly engaged until 1872, when he came with his family to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Gage county. In Highland township he purchased eighty acres of wild land, in Section 6, and here he planted trees and made other substantial improvements, the while he soon brought his land under effective cultivation. It is generally conceded that he was the first settler to erect a frame house between Nebraska City and Gage county, and in the early days his home was the stopping place of sojourners who required accommodations for a night or more, few of the pioneer homes having facilities adequate to extend such hospitality. From Nebraska City he transported by team and wagon his household effects, which had been shipped from the old home in Illinois. Mr. Balderson was a man whose character and mentality well equipped him for leadership in community affairs and, as a stalwart Republican, he always took deep interest in political and governmental matters. He gave able assistance in the establishing of schools and churches and in laying out the township of Highland. In coming to Gage county he transported his family by means of three covered wagons, and he was one of the sterling pioneers who aided greatly in furthering the development and progress of Gage county. He passed the closing years of his life in the home of his daughter Mary, Mrs. Alvin White, at Fairbury, Jefferson county, where his death occurred January 15, 1899. His loved and devoted wife passed to eternal rest April 8, 1897, she having been a member of the Baptist church and he having been a birthright member of the Society of Friends, commonly designated as Quakers. The lineage of the Balderson family is traced back to staunch Scottish origin and the founders of the American branch were two brothers who came to this country in the colonial days, both becoming citizens of prominence and influence.

James E. Balderson acquired his rudimentary education in the schools of Ohio and was about fourteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where he was reared to adult age. Within a few weeks after he had attained his legal majority he came with his parents to Gage county, and about one year later, at the age of twenty-two years, he here obtained a homestead claim of eighty acres, in Section 8, Highland township. He reclaimed and improved this farm under the conditions that obtained in the pioneer days and had his full share of hardships and trials. His energy and thrift were shown in the excellent improvements which he made on his original homestead and increasing prosperity in the passing years enabled him to add gradually to his landed estate until he be-

came the owner of his present large and valuable farm property in Highland township. In his years of active farm enterprise he became specially prominent and successful as a breeder and grower of fine Hereford cattle, and his herds attracted much attention. He customarily shipped about two car loads of cattle annually, after bringing the same into the best of condition by judicious methods of feeding. He has not been circumscribed by mere individual advancement but has given his support to movements and enterprises projected for the general good of the community, though never a seeker of public office. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

January 18, 1883, recorded the marriage of Mr. Balderson to Miss Rebecca Johnson, who likewise is a native of Morgan county, Ohio, where she was born June 30, 1861, a daughter of Paten and Isabel (Blake) Johnson, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, in June, 1803, and the latter of whom was born the state of Maine. Mr. Johnson, whose father, William, was a native of Ireland, was a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of his death, June 28, 1871, and his widow passed away April 4, 1889, she having been his second wife and Mrs. Balderson having been the ninth of their twelve children. Mr. and Mrs Balderson have three children: James F. is a progressive farmer of Colorado; Pearl L. is also in Colorado; and Lester B., who remains at the parental home, has the active management of the old homestead farm.

GEORGE G. DOUGLAS, M. D., was engaged in the successful general practice of his profession at Cortland, this county, from 1904 until the spring of 1918, and was essentially one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county, even as he was one of the most liberal and progressive citizens of the vital little city in which he maintained his residence. He is now established in practice at Elmwood, Cass county.

Dr. Douglas was born in Adams county, Illinois, on the 30th of June, 1863, and is a son of William and Emma (McMurray) Douglas, the former of whom was born in Washington county, Kentucky, and the latter in Adams county, Illinois, where his parents settled in the pioneer days. William Douglas was a child at the time when his parents immigrated from Kentucky and became pioneer settlers in Adams county, Illinois, in 1832, and there he was reared to manhood. In Illinois he continued his activities as a farmer until 1869, when he removed with his family to Nodaway county, Missouri, where he became a substantial farmer and where he passed the remainder of his life. He was born January 16, 1831, and his death occurred December 29, 1888. His parents, Joseph and Jeanette (McMurray) Douglas, were born and reared in Virginia, the former having been a son of Joseph Douglas, Sr., whose father, Hugh, was born and reared in Scotland and established his residence in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1740. Thus it appears that Dr. Douglas is not only a scion of one of the fine colonial families of the historic Old Dominion but also traces his ancestry back to staunch Scotch origin on both the paternal and maternal sides. His mother was born December 23, 1838, and passed to the life eternal August 14, 1899. She was born at Upper Alton, Illinois, and was a daughter of Rev. Wilson McMurray and Georgia Ann (Parrish) McMurray, both natives of Kentucky, Mr. McMurray having been a pioneer clergyman of the Methodist church in Illinois. It is worthy of historic note in this context that the first turnpike road in Kentucky was constructed in 1837 by a paternal great-uncle of Dr. Douglas. William and Emma (McMurray) Douglas became the parents of six children: William S. is a farmer in Canadian county, Oklahoma; Joseph E. is engaged in the practice of law at Plattsmouth, Nebraska; Rev. Fletcher D., a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church, is, in 1918, pastor of a church at Mound City, Missouri; Mrs. Evelyn Murray is deceased, and left two children, Muriel and Alma, the latter making her home with Dr. Douglas of this review; Dr. Douglas was the next in order of birth; and Frederick E. died when about thirty-five years of age.

Dr. Douglas was a lad of about six years at the time of the family removal to Nodaway county, Missouri, where he was reared to adult age on the home farm and where he made good use of the advantages of the schools of the locality and period, as shown by the fact that as a youth he gave three years to successful service as a teacher in the district schools. Thereafter he supplemented his academic education by attending Amity College, at College Springs, Iowa, and in preparation for his chosen profession he entered, in 1888, the Missouri Medical College, in the city of St. Louis. In this institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1891, and after thus receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine, he engaged in practice at Ravenswood, Missouri, where he remained until 1904, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence at Cortland. Here he built up a large and representative practice and in the meanwhile he has kept in close touch with the advances made in medical and surgical science, with full appreciation of his professional stewardship and responsibilities. He removed to Elmwood, Cass county, in the spring of 1918 and is there continuing his successful professional activities.

In 1917 Dr. Douglas became associated with Paul Schultz and A. J. Goodban in organizing a company that installed a thoroughly modern electric-lighting system in Cortland, and he became secretary and treasurer of this company. Mr. Schultz is president of the corporation and Mr. Goodban its general manager. In other ways Dr. Douglas showed his civic loyalty and progressiveness and took a lively interest in community affairs in general. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, he holds membership in the American Medical Association and the Nebraska State Medical Society and, while a resident of Cortland, was prominently identified with the Gage County Medical Society. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and he and his wife hold membership in the Congregational church.

On the 20th of June, 1894, Dr. Douglas wedded Miss Martha Hilton, who was born and reared in Cass county, Nebraska, a daughter of George and Letta (Irwin) Hilton, pioneers of that county, where they have resided at Elmwood since their retirement from their old home farm. Dr. and Mrs. Douglas became the parents of three children, of whom only the second, Ellen, is living. Leland died at the age of twelve years and James at the age of one year.

SAMUEL R. SMITH properly gains recognition in this history by reason of his secure standing as a representative farmer and citizen of Filley township, where his pleasant rural home is established in Section 21. He was born at Peoria, Illinois, September 26, 1857, and is a son of John R. and Sarah (Bateman) Smith, the former of whom was born in Switzerland, in 1816, and the latter of whom was born in the state of Ohio, in 1823. The death of the father occured December 4, 1888, and that of the mother in December, 1890. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Ohio and after their removal to Illinois the father was for a number of years engaged in the boot and shoe business at Peoria, he having been one of the sterling pioneer merchants of that now vigorous city, where he and his wife settled at the early period when the chief transportation facilities of Illinois were those of lake and river navigation. John R. and Sarah (Bateman) Smith continued to maintain their home at Peoria until their death and were venerable and honored pioneer citizens of that place. Mr. Smith was a Democrat in politics and was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, his wife having been an active member of the Presbyterian church. They became the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Fannie J. is a widow and resides in the city of Peoria, Illinois; Samuel R., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Mrs. Nellie M. Lee resides in the city of Chicago, where her husband is engaged in mercantile business; and Effie D. is the wife of William Burt, a prosperous farmer near Decatur, Illinois.

S. R. Smith is indebted to the public schools

JOHN C. BOYD AND FAMILY

of his native city for his early educational advantages, and after leaving school he was there employed eight years in a grain warehouse. In December, 1886, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and in Filley township he purchased an unimproved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He vigorously instituted the reclamation and development of his land, erected a good house and other farm buildings, and on his farm he gained his initial experience in harnessing a horse, so that it may be readily seen that he was a novice in farm enterprise, this slight initial handicap having, however, been effectually counterbalanced by his initiative and administrative ability and determined purpose. He now has a valuable farm estate of four hundred acres and his generous success has been won entirely through his own ability and well directed endeavors. His farm property is well improved and he gives his attention to diversified agriculture and the raising of good livestock.

November 18, 1880, recorded the marriage of Mr. Smith to Miss Ella M. Yates, who was born in Illinois, August 12, 1863, a daughter of John C. and Jane (Hargadine) Yates, the former a native of West Virginia and the latter of Ohio, their marriage having been solemnized in Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of two children, the firstborn, Willard, having died at the age of twenty years, and Verna M. being the wife of L. C. Roberts, their one child being a winsome little daughter, Helen Elizabeth.

In a fraternal way Mr. Smith is affiliated with the Highlanders and the Royal Arcanum, and in politics he gives his allegiance to the Republican party.

JOHN C. BOYD is a representative of one of the well known families of Gage county and has here achieved distinctive success as an exponent of farm enterprise, his well improved farm, comprising one hundred and twenty acres, being situated in Section 15, Sherman township. He has been a resident of this county since his boyhood and is a son of Otho Boyd, of whom individual mention is made on other pages, so that further review of the family history is not here demanded.

John C. Boyd was born in Linn county, Iowa, December 8, 1873, and was about nine years old at the time of the family removal to Gage county. Here he was reared on the old homestead farm of his father, in Sherman township, and in the meanwhile he made good use of the advantages afforded in the local schools. He has never wavered in his allegiance to the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing and in his independent operations as a farmer he has for more than twenty years utilized land which he has rented from Ford Lewis, besides having accumulated and made the best of improvements upon his home farm, his ownership of which gives concrete evidence of the success that has attended his well ordered activities in diversified agricultural enterprise and in the raising of good grades of live stock, in which latter department he makes a specialty of raising pure-bred Duroc-Jersey swine.

In politics Mr. Boyd is aligned with the Republican party, and his interest in community affairs has been shown by his effective service as a member of the school board of his district. On one occasion he was elected to the office of constable, but he refused to qualify for and assume the duties of this position. He and his wife hold membership in the Brethren church.

In 1900 Mr. Boyd wedded Miss Daisy Swarts, who was born in Champaign county, Illinois, and whose death occurred in 1909. She is survived by three children,—Clarence Raymond, and Thelma and Inez, who are twins. In 1913 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Boyd to Miss Almira Shaw, who was born and reared in Gage county and is a representative of one of the earliest territorial pioneer families of this now favored section of Nebraska, her paternal grandparents, Stephen P. and Hannah (Hicks) Shaw having settled in Gage county in 1857 and having here passed the remainder of their lives. Stephen V. Shaw, father of Mrs. Boyd, was born in Dutchess county, New York, January 4, 1844, and when

he was six years old the family removed to Wisconsin, from which state they came to Nebraska Territory and settled in Gage county when he was thirteen years of age. In 1864 he went to Colorado, where he was associated with prospecting and mining operations about one year. He then returned to Gage county and, in 1866, he married Miss Minerva Hand, daughter of William and Annie (Scott) Hand, who likewise came to Nebraska Territory in 1857 and who settled near Nebraska City. After his marriage Mr. Shaw engaged in farm enterprise in Adams township, where he reclaimed and developed one of the valuable farm properties of the county and became one of the honored and influential citizens of his community. Of the nine children of the Shaw family the following brief data are available. (See also Shaw family history.) Louis V. is a prosperous farmer near Berwyn, Custer county, Nebraska; Katie is a successful and popular teacher in the schools of Gage county and at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, is teaching in the public schools near Liberty; Almira, wife of Mr. Boyd, was the next in order of birth; Ada M. is the wife of Miles W. McKnight, of Adams township; Alice H. is the wife of Truman Bert Kauffman, of Havelock, Lancaster county; Edna is the wife of Clarence Von. Palmer, of Chappell, Deuel county; May remains at the parental home; Charles is a successful farmer in Adams township; and Rae is employed as a stenographer in the offices of the board of education of the city of Lincoln. Of the second marriage of Mr. Boyd no children have been born. For the past twenty years Mrs. Almira Boyd has been an active worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was state secretary of the Nebraska organization for two years, and for the past thirteen years she has been recorder and secretary of the Gage county organization of this splendid body.

JAMES A. THOM has shown distinctive progressiveness and executive ability in connection with his well ordered activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower in his native county, and his fine farm estate of four hundred and sixty five acres, in Sherman township, is given to diversified agriculture and to the raising of live stock, including Hereford cattle and Poland-China swine. Of the Thom family history specific data are given on other pages, in the memoir dedicated to his honored father, the late Peter C. Thom.

Mr. Thom was born in Sherman township, this county, on the 18th of January, 1872, and in addition to receiving in his youth the advantages of the local schools he completed a course of higher study in the normal school at Peru, Nemaha county. At the age of eighteen years Mr. Thom began a practical apprenticeship to the trade of telegraphy, and thereafter he served nine years as telegraph operator and station agent in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. He then resumed his active alliance with farm enterprise and brought to bear the specific knowledge which he had earlier gained in connection with the work of the old home farm on which he was reared. He has made each successive year count in worthy achievement as a farmer and has made excellent improvements on his fine rural estate, his homestead being in Section 20, Sherman township.

November 1, 1894, recorded the marriage of Mr. Thom to Miss Emma H. Gramenz, daughter of William and Minnie (Menchau) Gramenz. Mr. Gramenz was born and reared in Germany and as a young man he was a soldier in the German army, with which he participated in the Franco-Prussian war and was with the victorious forces that entered the city of Paris, he having been a lieutenant of his command. In 1872 he came to the United States and settled at Rock Island, Illinois. He worked as a brickmaker, accumulated a competency, and he and his wife now maintain their home in California, Mrs. Gramenz having been born at Coal Valley, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Thom have two children — Harold, who was born February 10, 1900, and Minnie, who was born November 1, 1905. The son was graduated in the Beatrice high school, as a member of the class of 1918.

In the village of Fliley Mr. Thom is af-

filiated with the lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, and in politics he gives his allegiance to the Republican party.

JAMES W. GISH is numbered among the representative exponents of farm industry in Rockford township, where his fine homestead farm of two hundred and forty acres is situated in Section 33, besides which he is the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres located about two miles east of his home place. Mr. Gish was born in Roanoke, Woodford county, Illinois, July 2, 1860, and is a son of William A. and Sarah E. (Statler) Gish, both natives of Roanoke, Virginia, their marriage having been solemnized at Salem, that state. William A. Gish became a pioneer farmer in Woodford county, Illinois, where he continued his activities until 1892, when he came to Nebraska and purchased a large farm in Gage county. Upon retiring from active labors he established his residence at Juniata, Adams county, and he and his wife died in 1904; they were killed in a terrific storm, at Bloomington, Franklin county, Nebraska. They became the parents of a fine family of eighteen children, and of the number nine are living. Mr. Gish was a Democrat in politics and he and his wife held membership in the Brethren church. Both were representatives of sterling families early founded in Virginia, and their parents passed their entire lives in the historic Old Dominion.

James W. Gish gained his initial experience of practical order in connection with the work of the old home farm in Illinois, was afforded the advantages of the public schools and in later years he has not faltered in his allegiance to the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing, through the medium of which he has achieved unequivocal success. He has been a resident of Gage county since 1883 and is a progressive farmer and valued citizen of Rockford township. He is independent in politics and he is an active member of the Brethren church.

In 1884 Mr. Gish wedded Miss Mary J. Reiff, who died in 1905, at the age of thirty-nine years. She was a daughter of Joseph and Mary Reiff, concerning whom specific mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of the career of John B. Reiff. Mr. and Mrs. Gish became the parents of seven children: Frank is engaged in farming in Rockford township; Mabel is the wife of Robert H. Steinmeyer, cashier of the Holmesville State Bank; Flora is the wife of Oscar Frantz, another of the prosperous farmers of Rockford township; Ethel is the wife of Arthur M. Miller, residing one-half mile west of Holmesville; Clayton W. is employed in farming the home place; Ray and Maude remain at the paternal home.

WILLIAM H. PARDE is vigorously and successfully carrying forward his operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower on his excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 34, Hooker township, and his status as a citizen is such as to entitle him to special recognition in this history. He was born in Adams county, Illinois, in 1873, and is a son of Heye and Tuter (Bowman) Parde, who were born in Germany and who became residents of Illinois upon coming to America. In 1887 Heye Parde came with his family to Gage county and settled in Hanover township, where he eventually became the owner of four hundred and fifty acres of land and developed one of the valuable farm properties of the county, his political allegiance having been given to the Democratic party and he and his wife having been zealous members of the Lutheran church. Of their eight children five are living: Peter is a farmer in Hooker township; William H., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Edward is a farmer in Hooker township; Herman lives on his father's old homestead farm; Kate is the wife of John Stevens, likewise a prosperous farmer of this county; Anna is the wife of John Deitzman, a farmer in Hooker township.

William H. Parde acquired his early education in the schools of Illinois and Gage county, he having been about fourteen years old at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, as noted above. He continued to be associated with his father in farm enterprise until he had

attained to the age of twenty-two years, when he purchased a farm of eighty acres. Later he established his residence on his present fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres and he is one of the successful and energetic exponents of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in Gage county. He is a Republican in politics, has served two years as road supervisor, and he and his wife hold membership in the Hanover Lutheran church.

In 1896 Mr. Parde wedded Miss Christina Eilers, who was born at Petersburg, Illinois, a daughter of Fritz Eilers, who is now a prosperous farmer in Hooker township. Mr. and Mrs. Parde have five children — Heye, Minnie, Tillie, Frederick, and William H., Jr.

OTHO BOYD has been for many years a vigorous and successful exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry in Gage county and accumulated a large and well improved landed estate in Sherman township, his pleasant home place being in Section 16, on rural mail route No. 1 from the village of Virginia.

Mr. Boyd was born at Canton, Illinois, December 3, 1851, and is a son of John and Susan (Teach) Boyd, the former of whom was born in Maryland, a son of William Boyd, who came from England to that state and who there passed the residue of his life. Mrs. Susan (Teach) Boyd was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Peter and Margaret Teach. John Boyd, who was a shoemaker by trade, established his residence in Illinois in the '40s, and in 1865 he removed with his family to Iowa, where he purchased two hundred acres of land and developed a valuable farm property. In 1882 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he made investment in a tract of four hundred and eighty acres of land, nearly all of which was unbroken prairie. This he reclaimed and improved and in this county he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, both having been earnest members of the Dunkard church and he having been a Republican in politics. Of the children the following brief record is available: Sarah is the wife of Lawrence Thornton, M. D., who is now living virtually retired in the village of Virginia, this county; Otho, of this review, was the next in order of birth; Margaret is the wife of Ira R. Grover, a farmer of Sherman township; Peter is a retired farmer residing in Iowa; Nettie is the wife of William H. Butterfield, of Sherman township; David lives in Sherman township; and Martha is the wife of David Kesler, of Sherman township.

Otho Boyd gained his early education in the schools of Illinois and Iowa and has been actively concerned with farm industry from his youth. Upon coming to Gage county he bought a farm in Sherman township, and to the same he later added from time to time until he had a valuable estate of six hundred acres — one of the fine rural domains of this section of the state. He has won success entirely through his own ability and well ordered efforts and is one of the substantial and honored citizens of Gage county. In the live-stock department of his extensive farm operations he has given special attention to the raising of Red Polled cattle and Duroc-Jersey swine, most of his cattle and swine being registered stock. He has sold to his children all but one hundred and sixty acres of his fine landed estate and is to live in semi-retirement from the cares and labors that have so long been his portion. Mr. Boyd is a loyal advocate of the principles of the Republican party, has served as road supervisor, and for twelve years he was a member of the school board of his district. He and his family hold membership in the Dunkard church.

In 1873 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Boyd to Miss Lucy Cobaugh, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Paul Cobaugh, who removed with his family to Iowa in 1864 and who passed the closing years of his life in the Gage county home of his daughter, Mrs. Boyd. In conclusion is entered brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd: John C. is a progressive farmer in Sherman township; Susan is the wife of Amos C. Kinzie, of the same township; Ernest is now a resident of Pratt county, Kansas; Martin E. is farming in Sherman township; Stella is the wife of David J. Holsinger, of Sherman township.

ABRAHAM L. THORNBURG has been a resident of Gage county from the time of attaining to his legal majority and is a scion of one of the honored pioneer families that was here founded in the territorial era. He is a representative farmer in Midland township and his landed estate in its very appearance indicates the prosperity that has attended his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower.

Abraham Lincoln Thornburg was born in Midland township, on the 10th of July, 1865, and is a son of Job Alexander Thornburg and Sarah Jane (Craig) Thornburg, both of whom were born and reared in Indiana, the former having been a cousin of John D. Thornburg, of whom specific mention is made on other pages, with incidental record concerning the family history. The parents of the subject of this review came to Gage county in the spring of 1863, and the death of the father occurred in the following year, his venerable widow being now a resident of Delaware county, Indiana. Of the two children one died in early childhood. Upon coming to Gage county Job A. Thornburg took up a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, in Midland township, and here he provided a pioneer dug-out to serve as a residence until he could complete his log house. In the latter home his death soon occurred and his widow then returned to the old home in Indiana, taking with her her infant son, Abraham L., who thus missed in his boyhood the experiences of pioneer life in his native county. His venerable mother is a devoted member of the Christian church, as was also the father, who was a comparatively young man at the time of his death.

He whose name initiates this review was reared and educated in Delaware county, Indiana, and upon attaining to the age of twenty-one years he returned to Nebraska and assumed control of the farm property that had been obtained by his father in the territorial days. This property comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and he owns also a farm of eighty acres, south of Beatrice, in Sicily township. With the vital ambition and energy of youth Mr. Thornburg began the work of improving his farm and bringing the same under effective cultivation. Each successive year of application marked a distinct advancement and he now has one of the well improved and valuable farm properties of his native county, the same being given over to diversified agriculture and stock-growing. His present house was erected in the late '80s and has since been notably improved, while the other farm buildings likewise indicate thrift and prosperity. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and his wife and children hold membership in the Christian church, which he attends and supports.

In 1878 Mr. Thornburg wedded Miss Adelia Le Poidevin, a daughter of Thomas Le Poidevin, of whom mention is made on other pages, and of the four children of this union three are living: Clifford is a member of the national army preparing for service in the great European war and at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918, is stationed with his command at Deming, New Mexico, he being twenty-seven years of age; Guy, who is twenty-five years of age and who married Miss Grace Spitznogle, is associated in the management of his father's farm, as is also Ferris, who is twenty-two years of age.

WILLIAM T. FRY, a man of broad mental ken and mature judgment, has achieved success through his association with agricultural and live-stock enterprise in Gage county and his well improved farm property is situated in Section 15, Rockford township. He was born in Keokuk county, Iowa, July 29, 1864, his parents, John and Sarah (Coffman) Fry, having been pioneer settlers of that section of the Hawkeye state and both having been born in the picturesque mountain town of Staunton, Virginia — the father in 1822 and the mother in 1831. The marriage of the parents was solemnized at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and thereafter Mr. Fry continued to be identified with farm industry in Virginia for several years. In 1854 he numbered himself among the early settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa, the overland trip having been made with team and wagon. He purchased land and improved a good farm, and there he continued

his residence until 1880, when he came to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he passed the residue of his life, his death having occurred in 1900 and that of his wife in 1914. Of their eight children seven are living: Frank is a farmer in Sherman township, Gage county; Cyrus is a farmer in Iowa; David is engaged in farming near Belleville, Kansas; Nettie is the wife of Isaac B. Niswander, of Guthrie, Oklahoma; Jennie is the wife of Henry M. Flora, a substantial farmer of Chase county, Nebraska, where he served four years as county treasurer; William T., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; and Wesley is a prosperous farmer in Pawnee county, this state. Mary, the second child, died in Virginia. The parents were zealous members of the Brethren church and the father held to the faith of the Democratic party, under the influences of which he was reared. He was a son of Rudolph Fry, who passed his entire life in Virginia and whose parents were natives of Germany. Christian Coffman, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was born in Virginia, in 1769, his parents having come from Germany and become colonial settlers of the historic Old Dominion.

William T. Fry made good use of the advantages afforded in the district schools of his native state and later he completed normal and commercial courses in Holton University, Kansas. After the family removal to Nebraska he was for some time employed as clerk in a general store and also as assistant postmaster at Imperial, Chase county. He homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land there and for a few years thereafter he farmed on land rented from his father, in Pawnee county. He finally purchased the eighty acres in Pawnee county, and after selling this property he bought one hundred and sixty acres of his present valuable landed estate in Gage county, where he now owns a half-section of the valuable land of Rockford township — a property accumulated entirely through his own ability and well ordered activities.

In 1896 Mr. Fry wedded Miss Ella Dorrance, who was born in Pawnee county, this state, a daughter of John G. and Florence Dorrance, who there homesteaded in 1867 and who are now venerable and honored pioneer citizens of that county, living at Pawnee City. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have five children — John, Wesley, Vera, Chester, and Lawrence.

Mr. Fry is liberal and progressive as a citizen, is a Republican in politics and is now serving, 1918, as a member of the official board of Rockford township, besides which he has been for fifteen years a valued member of the school board of his district. In connection with his well directed farm enterprises he raised a goodly amount of cattle and swine, making a specialty of raising the full-blood Poland-China hogs. He and his wife are earnest members of the Brethren church. Mrs. Fry was graduated in the high school at Pawnee City and prior to her marriage had been for six years a popular teacher in the schools of her native county.

EHME WALLMANN. — Through his own energy and well ordered activities Mr. Wallmann has become one of the substantial and representative exponents of farm enterprise in Gage county, where he has maintained his home since 1883 and where he is now the owner of a valuable farm estate of six hundred acres, his attractive homestead place being in Section 11, Logan township.

Mr. Wallmann was born in the eastern part of Germany, on the 30th of May, 1857, and is a son of Jeremiah and Annie (Miller) Wallmann, both of whom passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father was a farmer by vocation. The subject of this review is the one surviving of the two children of his father's first marriage and of the four children of the second marriage two are living — George, a retired farmer in the state of Missouri, and Alma, who is the wife of Benjamin Omman, of Hanover township, Gage county, Nebraska. The parents were earnest communicants of the Lutheran church, and the father died in the year 1880.

Ehme Wallmann gained his youthful education in the schools of his native land and was a young man of twenty-three years when he came to America, in 1880, and established his

residence in Johnson county, Nebraska. There he was employed at farm work until 1883, when he came to Gage county and purchased eighty acres of land in Logan township. In acquiring this property he was able to make only partial payment, but he had full confidence in his ability to win through energy and resolute industry eventual success. On his farm, which was at the time unbroken prairie, he erected a little house of one room and in this little domicile he and his wife provided also accommodation for the school teacher who was making her home with them. He soon built a new house, but July 24, 1898, this was destroyed by fire. He then erected his present attractive and comfortable house of eight rooms, and with increasing prosperity he has erected other farm buildings of substantial and modern type, the while he has developed to the best standard his large and valuable farm property. Mr. Wallmann is independent in politics and he and his wife are active communicants of the Lutheran church, in which he holds the office of clerk. He served five years as road supervisor and two years as township assessor, these preferments indicating the confidence and esteem reposed in him in his home community.

On May 1, 1884, Mr. Wallmann wedded Miss Margaret Jurgens, a daughter of Thee Jurgens, of whom mention is made on other pages. Mr. and Mrs. Wallmann have a fine family of ten children: Jerry has charge of his father's farm in Filley township; Annie is the wife of Thees Busboom, of Logan township; Thee is a farmer in Logan township; George in Logan township; John in Hanover township; and the children who remain at the parental home are: Henry, Ehme, Jr., Theodore, William, and Richard.

JAMES E. BROWN, who has been a resident of Gage county for nearly two score years and who has contributed worthily to the advancement of farm industry in the county, has lived virtually retired, in the city of Beatrice, since 1901, and he and his wife have a large and attractive residence at 702 North Eighth street, where they are enjoying the gracious peace and prosperity that properly crown the earnest activities of former years.

James Edward Brown was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, on the 9th of September, 1845, and is a son of William and Lydia (Hatch) Brown, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of the state of New York. William Brown was six years old at the time of the family immigration from the Emerald Isle to America, and in 1838 he became a pioneer settler in Wisconsin. Later he removed to Illinois and purchased land in Stephenson county, where he became a successful farmer and where both he and his wife passed the residue of their lives, his death having occurred in 1871. Of the seven children only three are now living. James E. Brown was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, received his early education in the common schools of his native state, and though he was not yet sixteen years of age at the outbreak of the Civil war his youthful patriotism was of insistent order and was not long to be denied expression. About three months after his eighteenth birthday anniversary Mr. Brown, a remarkably vigorous youth who was six feet in height and weighed two hundred and fifty pounds, tendered the full force of his brain and brawn in defense of the integrity of the nation. On the 26th of December, 1863, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, George C. Crane having been captain of the company. With this command Mr. Brown proceeded to the front and with the same he continued to serve for a number of months after victory had crowned the Union arms, as he was mustered out January 20, 1866, his honorable discharge having been received on the 2d of the following month. He took part in the historic Red River campaign, the siege and capture of Mobile, and in various other active engagements, and he was favored in never having been wounded or captured. His fine physical powers stood him well in the arduous service incidental to marches and campaign activities, and during his entire period of service he endured only minor illness, which did not long incapacitate

MR. AND MRS. JAMES E. BROWN

him, he having been mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and having then returned to his home, in Stephenson county, Illinois, where he found employment at farm work. In 1871 he went to Story county, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land, for which he paid twenty dollars an acre. There he continued development work and farm enterprise for the ensuing four years, at the expiration of which he sold the property at the rate of twenty-five dollars an acre. Thereafter he farmed on rented land in Stephenson county, Illinois, until 1883, when he came to Nebraska and established his permanent residence in Gage county. In Holt township, at a point three miles west of the present village of Pickrell, he purchased one hundred acres of unimproved land, and in the spring of the following year he brought his family to the new home, the domicile of the family for the first summer having been a crude shanty, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions. In the following autumn Mr. Brown purchased an adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres and he then erected a good frame house as a home for his family. He gained secure status as one of the substantial and progressive exponents of farm industry in the county, made the best of improvements on his land and continued to reside on the old home place until 1901, since which time, as previously stated, he has lived retired in the city of Beatrice.

On the 8th of February, 1871, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Brown to Miss Mary E. Fuller, of Stephenson county, Illinois. Mrs. Brown was born February 18, 1849, in Jefferson county, New York. She is a daughter of Jacob and Lydia (Spencer) Fuller, both natives of Vermont Mr. Fuller died in Jefferson county, New York, and his widow later removed with her children to Stephenson county, Illinois, where she passed the remainder of her life. Mrs. Brown, a woman of gentle and winning personality, proved a true helpmeet to her sturdy young husband and their companionship during the long intervening years has been ideal in all relations. They have three daughters: Dora is the wife of David Neher, and they reside on her father's old homestead farm in Holt township, their three children being Leslie, Charlotte and Violet; Mary Jeanette, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, is the wife of Jacob Meyer, of Beatrice, and they have two children,—DeLysle and Ruth; Ida, youngest of the daughters, is the wife of A. Blaine Ozman, a prosperous farmer in Holt township, and they have two children, Dwight and Evelyn.

Though he has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten, Mr. Brown retains splendid physical vigor and is erect and active, with a commanding physique that the passing years have touched most lightly. He is aligned as a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party and while on his farm he served as a member of the school board of his district, having invariably declined to become a candidate for any other office. Mr. Brown vitalizes the memories of his youthful military career by his affiliation with Rawlins Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in his home city. He and his wife are earnest members of the Congregational church, and they have inviolable place in the esteem an affection of a host of friends in Gage county.

JACOB P. SAUSMAN. — As a dealer in creamery products, poultry, flour, and feed, Mr. Sausman has built up a prosperous enterprise in the village of Cortland and he is a popular member of one of the sterling pioneer families of Gage county.

Mr. Sausman was born at Lena, Stephenson county, Illinois, December 11, 1859, and is a son of John L. and Caroline (Shearer) Sausman, the only other child having been Joseph, who died when about fifty-six years of age. John L. Sausman was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1834, and his death occurred May 25, 1904. During the period of his residence in Illinois he followed the trade of stonemason, and on the 10th of March, 1875, he established the family home on a pioneer farm one mile east of Cortland, Gage county. Here he continued his active association with farm enterprise until 1880, when he removed to the city of Beatrice,

where he passed the remainder of his life. He reclaimed his farm from the virgin prairie and made good improvements on the place, this property having been sold by him in 1881. During the remainder of his active career he followed his trade and was a successful contractor in Beatrice. He was a gallant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, his service having been with the Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he enlisted in 1861. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, in which he received a wound of minor order, and after serving three years he reënlisted as a veteran, so that he continued as a soldier of the Union during virtually the entire period of the war. He was in later years an honored and influential member of the post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Beatrice. He was a son of Joseph and Hannah Sausman, the former of whom was born in France, whence he came with his parents to America when he was a boy. He was reared in the state of Pennsylvania, where his marriage was solemnized, and finally he removed with his family to Illinois and became a pioneer farmer in Stephenson county, where he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. Mrs. Caroline (Shearer) Sausman was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1835, a daughter of Jacob and Fannie (Biceline) Shearer, likewise natives of that state, and her death occurred at Beatrice, Nebraska, April 14, 1894.

Jacob P. Sausman was reared and educated in Illinois and in Jo Daviess county, that state, he gained early experience in connection with farm work. He was fifteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, Nebraska, and here he gave effective aid in the reclaiming and improving of the home farm, eighty acres of which he eventually purchased. In 1884 he sold his farm and removed to Cortland, where he established a draying business. Later he was employed four years as a traveling representative of the International Harvester Company, after having previously been engaged for a number of years in the coal and farm-implement business at Cortland. In 1905 he established his present creamery business in Cortland, after having previously had charge of the Cortland station of the Beatrice Creamery Company, and in his enterprise in the handling of creamery products, poultry, flour, and feed he has developed a substantial and prosperous business. In politics he is a stalwart Republican and he served from 1904 to 1906, inclusive, as deputy assessor of Highland township. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 18th of November, 1880, Mr. Sausman wedded Miss Villetia Batten, who was born at Ottawa, Illinois, January 25, 1859, a daughter of William and Mary (Hayward) Batten, natives respectively of Maine and Vermont. The parents of Mrs. Sausman came from Illinois to Gage county, Nebraska, in July, 1871, and the father entered claim to a homestead one mile east of Cortland, where he developed a productive farm, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Sausman have two children; and both were graduated in the Cortland high school. Albert L., who was born April 23, 1883, conducts a barber shop in Cortland, the maiden name of his wife having been Ethel Fink. Una, who was born August 8, 1898, is the wife of Alvin Jungmeyer, who conducts an automobile garage at Cortland.

CHRISTIAN F. FRY. — In Section 30, Sherman township is situated the handsome and productive farm of Mr. Fry, who has been a resident of Gage county since 1888 and who has won prosperity through his own efforts. He was born in Agusta county, Virginia, January 22, 1851, and is a son of John and Sarah (Coffman) Fry, who likewise were natives of the historic Old Dominion state, where the father was born in 1822 and the mother in 1831. In 1854 John Fry removed with his family to Keokuk county, Iowa, the long overland trip having been made with team and wagon, and he became one of the pioneer farmers of that section of the Hawkeye state. In 1880 he came with his family to Pawnee county, Nebraska, and in this state

he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred in 1900 and that of his widow in 1914, both having been zealous members of the Church of the Brethren. Of their eight children all are living except one and further data concerning the family is given on other pages, in the sketch of the career of William T. Fry.

The subject of this review was an infant at the time of the family removal to Iowa, where he received his early education in the pioneer schools, and he was twenty-six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Pawnee county, Nebraska. There he continued his association with agricultural industry until 1888, when he came to Gage county and purchased eighty acres of land in Sherman township, fifty acres of the land having been broken. To this original homestead he has since added until he now has a well improved farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres, the buildings being of excellent order and he having shown progressiveness and good judgment in the planting of shade trees which are now well matured, as is also his orchard, which likewise was set out by him. He has taken loyal interest in community affairs and served fifteen years as a member of the school board of his district. In politics he is independent of strict partisan lines and supports the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. His farm is devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising of good grades of cattle and swine. Pertinent to the high prices obtaining at the present time, it is interesting to record that in the earlier period of his farm activities in Gage county Mr. Fry sold corn at the rate of ten cents a bushel and hogs for three and one-half dollars per hundred weight. He and his family hold earnestly to the faith of the Church of the Brethren.

At North English, Iowa, in 1874, Mr. Fry wedded Miss Sarah Ann Miller, who was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, June 30, 1853, a daughter of Noah and Frances (Huffman) Miller, who removed to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1856 and who there passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Miller was a miller by trade as well as name but after going to Iowa he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. Of his twelve children all are living except two and Mrs. Fry is the eldest of the number. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have had four children: John N. is employed as a railway mail clerk, with headquarters in the city of Omaha; Minnie became the wife of Ulysses G. McPheron and was a resident of Sherman township at the time of her death; Samuel E. is employed as a railway mail clerk, out of the city of Lincoln; and Ola M. is the wife of Robert M. Jenkins, a prosperous farmer in Rockford township.

JOHN T. BUSBOOM came to Gage county in the year 1900 and purchased a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, the same comprising the west half of Section 7, Filley township. He has remodeled and otherwise improved the buildings that were on the place and has erected other buildings, with the result that thrift and prosperity mark his estate as one of the model farms of Filley township. Here he is successfully carrying forward his progressive activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower and stands well to the front as one of the substantial and representative exponents of farm industry in Gage county, as well as a liberal and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Busboom was born in Ost Friesland, province of Hanover, Germany, on the 29th of May, 1855, and is a son of Thees and Imke (Adams) Busboom, who came to the United States in 1868 and established their residence in Adams county, Illinois, whence they later removed to Champaign county, that state, where they passed the remainder of their lives and where the father became a prosperous farmer.

John T. Busboom acquired his rudimentary education in his native land and was thirteen years of age at the time of the family immigration to America. He was reared to adult age on the farm of his father and in the meanwhile profited by the advantages of the public schools of Illinois. There he eventually became the owner of a good farm, in Cham-

paign county, where he continued his activities until 1900, when he sold his farm property and came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he has since been actively and successfully engaged in farming, as previously noted in this context, his farm being now looked upon as one of the finest in Gage county. In politics Mr. Busboom is independent and he and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church.

In Champaign county, Illinois, March 10, 1882, Mr. Busboom wedded Miss Tida Duitsman, who was born in Germany, and they have six children: Thees is a successful farmer in Logan township; Gertrude is the widow of Menne J. Leners and they reside with her parents; Emma is the wife of John Ehman, of Hanover township; Gepke is the wife of Paul Beahr, of Hanover township; Thelka is the wife of Thee Wallman, of Logan township; and John J., who married Miss Tillie Remmers, is associated in the management of his father's farm.

JOSEPH S. HUBKA owns and gives his active supervision to his well improved farm estate of four hundred and thirty-four acres and his attractive homestead is situated in Section 12, Sherman township. He is a scion of a sterling pioneer family of Nebraska and on other pages is dedicated a memoir to his father, the late Albert Hubka, so that further review of the family history is not here demanded.

Joseph S. Hubka was born in Pawnee county, Nebraska, in the year 1871, and was reared to the sturdy discipline of his father's farm properties in Pawnee and Gage counties, the while he made in his youth good use of the advantages afforded in the public schools. When he had attained to the age of twenty-five years his father gave to him his present homestead place, which comprised one hundred and sixty acres, and to the area of the same he has since added until he now has a valuable farm property of four hundred and thirty-four acres, improved with good buildings and devoted to diversified agriculture and stock-growing.

At the age of twenty-five years Mr. Hubka assumed connubial responsibilities, by his marriage to Miss Frances Vavruska, who was born in Marshall county, Kansas, and they became the parents of four children: Ernest was a member of the class of 1917 in the University of Nebraska; Latimer is attending the local schools; Elbert died at the age of seven years; and Elmer is the youngest member of the home circle.

OSCAR J. HAUPT. — The one hundred and sixty acres of excellently improved land that comprise the northwest quarter of Section 20, Highland township, constitute the attractive farm owned and operated by Mr. Haupt, who is one of the representative agriculturists and stock-raisers of the younger generation in his native county. He was born in Highland township, June 30, 1884, and is a son of Julius and Catherine (Pfieffer) Haupt, of whose six children the first, Matilda, died at the age of twenty years; Augusta is the wife of Henry Cramer, of Stockton, Kansas; Rosa has supervision of the domestic economies and social amenities of the home of her brother Oscar J.; Charles is a prosperous farmer in Clatonia township; Oscar J., was next in order of birth; Arthur is engaged in farm enterprise in Highland township.

Julius Haupt was born in Switzerland, January 12, 1844, and was about nineteen years of age when he left that fair little republic and came to the United States. At Peoria, Illinois, he found employment at his trade, that of blacksmith, in the shops of the Avery Manufacturing Company, which was at that early period conducting operations on a small scale. While he was thus engaged, was solemnized, at Peoria, the marriage of Mr. Haupt to Miss Catherine Pfieffer, who was born in Hessen, Germany, April 17, 1844, and who was a young woman when she came to America, her father, Conrad Pfieffer, having later come to this country and having passed the closing years of his life in the home of his son Henry, in Gage county, Nebraska, where he died at the patriarchal age of ninety-three years. Julius Haupt and his wife came to Gage county about 1875, and here he obtained a homestead

of eighty acres, in Section 18, Highland township. He endured his full share of the trials and hardships that fell to the lot of the pioneers of this locality, but, with the devoted coöperation of his wife, he pressed forward until he achieved substantial prosperity. He was the owner of a valuable Gage county estate of three hundred and twenty acres at the time of his death, which occurred December 30, 1916, his wife having passed away on the 8th of November of the preceding year, and both having been charter members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Clatonia.

Oscar J. Haupt early began to assist in the work of the home farm and after having profited fully by the advantages of the district schools he completed a course in the Beatrice Business College. Soon afterward he began farming in an independent way, and his energy and progressiveness are bringing to him success in this great basic field of industry. In 1916 he purchased his present farm, to the improvements of which he has added materially, and as he remains a bachelor he is favored in having as the chatelaine of his pleasant home his sister Rosa. He is a stockholder of different corporations, is a Republican in politics and he and his sister attend and support the Congregational church at Cortland.

The father of Mr. Haupt gave to the utmost of his ability in fostering the civic and material development of Gage county, and in the early days commonly walked from his farm to Wilber to secure his mail. With hoe and spade he aided other pioneers in improving the roads of his township, and as a skilled artisan at the blacksmith trade he found much demand for his services, specially in the pioneer days.

JOHN N. MUMFORD is a representative of one of the well known families of Gage county and concerning the family history adequate mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of G. L. Mumford. He has gained substantial place as one of the aggressive and successful exponents of agricultural and livestock industry in his native township of Logan, where he was born June 3, 1880. It is interesting to record that Mr. Mumford resides upon the old homestead upon which his father settled in 1865, in Section 8, Logan township, and that he has active charge of the fine farm estate left by his honored father.

Mr. Mumford acquired his preliminary education in the district schools and thereafter continued his studies in the public schools of the city of Beatrice until his graduation in the high school, as a member of the class of 1901. He has had no desire to sever his allegiance to the great basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing and in his successful farm operations he now utilizes an area of three hundred and twenty acres, of which one hundred and sixty acres are individually owned by him. Mr. Mumford is found staunchly arrayed in the ranks of the Democratic party, and he is actively affiliated with Beatrice Lodge, No. 619, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

In 1910 Mr, Mumford wedded Miss Florence Thacker, whose father, John Thacker, was an early settler of Beatrice, where for many years he owned and conducted a drug store. Like her husband, Mrs. Mumford was graduated in the Beatrice high school, and she is the popular chatelaine of their pleasant home. They have no children.

ANTON HURTZ, of Wymore township, has lived in Gage county for the past thirty years and is one of its representative, successful farmers. In Rhineland, Germany was established a home by Peter and Anna Mary (Roab) Hurtz, who tilled the soil and who there reared their sons and daughters, six of whom are living, as follows: Joseph is a farmer in Sicily township, Gage county; Anton is the immediate subject of this sketch; Frank is a farmer in Wymore township; Jacob resides in Wisconsin, where he is a farmer; and Mary and John are residents of Wymore township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hurtz left the homeland with their children in 1882 and sailed for the hospitable shores of the United States. For two years after their arrival they made their home in New York city, and before coming to Gage county, in 1887, they lived for a short time in Chicago.

MR. AND MRS. ANTON HURTZ

In Gage county one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Wymore township, were purchased and here the family home was established, the parents having remained on this farm until they were called to the life eternal. Mr. Hurtz was eighty-three years old at the time of his death, his wife having passed away October 6, 1888.

Anton Hurtz was born in Germany, and the year of his nativity was 1862. He learned the baker's trade before leaving the fatherland with his parents. In New York he worked as a tanner and since his arrival in Gage county he has devoted his time to farming. In this connection he has indeed much to show that he has been a successful farmer, for he owns in 1918 five hundred and thirty acres of well improved and valuable land.

In 1892 Anton Hurtz married Miss Anna Paul, a daughter of John G. and Juliana (Walter) Paul, natives respectively of Zanesville, Ohio, and Germany. For a number of years John G. Paul followed farming industry in Illinois and in 1883 he came to Nebraska and located in Gage county, west of Blue Springs. There he continued to reside on his farm until he retired from active farming and removed with his wife to Beatrice. Of their children brief record is here given: John A. is deceased; Anna is the wife of Anton Hurtz, subject of this sketch; Charles is living near Guthrie, Oklahoma; Amanda remains with her parents; Joseph is in the automobile business at Los Angeles, California; Rosa is the wife of George Kral, an insurance agent at Hastings, Nebraska; Ellen is the wife of Floyd Churchill, a farmer near Pierre, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Paul are communicants of the Catholic church and their children also are members of that church.

Anton Hurtz votes the Democratic ticket and has served his township in a highly satisfactory manner as a member of the township board for four years, as well as a member of the school board of his district. A new barn has been built to accommodate the large amount of stock and cattle that Mr. Hurtz owns, and his commodious and well built house provides an ideal home. The sons and daughters have been reared in the faith of the Catholic church and are receiving the educational advantages that shall fully fit them for their future careers. The children are as follows: Julia Helena is attending college at Hastings, Nebraska; John Albert is attending school at Beatrice; Amanda and Mary Katherine are attending school at Wymore; William Joseph, Karl Jacob, Walter George, and Francis are attending the district school; and Paul, the youngest of the number, is still at home, awaiting his turn to attend school. Mr. Hurtz and his son Albert are members of the Knights of Columbus.

ANTON OLTMANS, a retired farmer and honored citizen of Cortland, was a young man of twenty-four years when he immigrated from Germany to the United States and it has been entirely through his own ability and well ordered endeavors that he has achieved the goal of prosperity and well merited independence. He was born in East Friesland, Germany, March 18, 1842, a son of Dietrich and Margaret G. (Clausen) Oltmans, of whose nine children he was the second in order of birth; the eldest, Dietrich, Jr., still lives in Germany; Oltman is a prosperous farmer of Gage county, his homestead being in Highland township, to the west of Cortland; Anne became the wife of John Neff and was a resident of Logan, Illinois, at the time of her death; Margaret is the widow of Jacob Johnson and resides at Lincoln, Illinois; Hilda is the widow of Harm Van Horn and lives at Pekin, Illinois; Jacob is a farmer near Lincoln, that state, as is also George; and Lubbo maintains his residence in Colorado. The subject of this review came to America in 1866 and about 1872 the parents and other members of the family joined him in Illinois, where both the father and mother passed the remainder of their lives.

Anton Oltmans was reared and educated in his native land and in 1866 he set forth for America. He made the voyage on a sailing vessel and while en route the ship sprung so serious a leak that all on board had to assist in the operation of the pumps, in order to keep

the vessel from sinking, six weeks having elapsed ere Mr. Oltmans disembarked in the port of New York city. He thence proceeded to Illinois, where he found work at chopping wood, shucking corn, etc. He finally was enabled to engage in independent farm enterprise in that state, where he continued his residence until 1881, in February of which year he arrived in Gage county. Here he purchased, at the rate of seven dollars an acre, one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in Section 6, Highland township, four miles west of Cortland. On the place he built a frame house of one story, sixteen by thirty-two feet in dimensions, and he then turned himself vigorously to breaking his land and making it available for cultivation. With the passing of years he made the best of improvements on his farm and by indefatigable industry and good management achieved substantial and worthy success. He remained on the farm until 1914, since which time he has lived in well earned retirement, his attractive residence in Cortland being one of the modern homes of this village. Energy and stability have marked his career and his course has been governed by those principles of integrity that always bring in their train the full measure of popular respect and good will. He is now the owner of a valuable landed estate of seven hundred and twenty acres in Nebraska, the major part of the same being in Gage county. As a loyal and appreciative citizen of the land of his adoption Mr. Oltmans gives his political support to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

April 6, 1870, recorded the marriage of Mr. Oltmans to Miss Kate Rademaker, who was born in Friesland, Germany, April 5, 1849, and she was eighteen years of age when she came to America and established her residence at Pekin, Illinois, her widowed mother and others of the children having later come to this country. She is a daughter of Rient and Kate (Rieken) Rademaker, who became the parents of one son and four daughters, all of the children having finally established homes in the United States and the loved mother having been a resident of Illinois at the time of her death. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Oltmans: Diedrich A. is a progressive farmer in Highland township; Mrs. Katherine Pothast, a widow, resides in the city of Beatrice, this county; Margaret is the wife of William Lucke and they are residents of Colorado; the fourth child died in infancy; Rient H. is a prosperous farmer in Highland township; Anton, Jr., is a salesman in one of the leading mercantile establishments in the city of Beatrice; Folkert R. remains at the parental home; Sophia is the wife of Theodore Nannen and they reside in the state of Iowa; Jacob resides upon and has the active management of his father's old homestead farm, in Highland township; and Theresa is the wife of Dr. R. V. Alldritt, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

FRANK R. TILTON, a progressive farmer of the younger generation in Filley township, is a younger brother of Lloyd H. Tilton, who is individually mentioned on other pages, with due incidental record concerning the family, which has been associated with the civic and industrial activities of Gage county for more than forty years. Frank R. Tilton was born on his father's old homestead farm, in Section 14, Filley township, November 30, 1888, and is a son of the late Curtis Tilton, an honored pioneer of the county. After completing the curriculum of the district schools Mr. Tilton further fortified himself by taking a course in a business college in the city of Beatrice. He early gained familiarity with the various departments of farm industry and has now control of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 25, Filley township, eighty acres being owned by him and the property being a part of the well improved landed estate left by his father. He is a Republican in his political adherency and he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church in the village of Filley.

August 27, 1914, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Tilton to Miss Della M. Saum, who was born at Warrensburg, Illinois, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Kerwood) Saum, now

residents of Filley. Mr. and Mrs. Tilton have two children,—DeVer and Le Vern.

EMIL HUBKA was born July 3, 1882, on the fine farm that is now his home, in Section 1, Sherman township, and he is a son of the late Albert Hubka, an honored pioneer to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this volume. Emil Hubka has been from boyhood actively associated with the operations of his present farm, and succeeded to the ownership of the place, which comprises two hundred and forty acres, improved with good buildings and showing every evidence of thrift and good management. He is a Democrat in his political proclivities but has had no ambition for public office of any kind.

In 1907 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Hubka to Miss Carrie Sikyta, who likewise was born and reared in this county, her father, Frank Sikyta, being a substantial farmer in Johnson county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Hubka have five children,—Evelyn, Georgia, Emil, Jr.; Walter, and Marvin.

HORACE M. MILLER has found in the village of Filley ample scope for the manifesting of his exceptional initiative and executive ability, in the management of the well ordered grain elevator, as local representative of the Central Granaries Company, of Lincoln. He is essentially one of the most vital and progressive business men and loyal citizens of the village and his success in connection with the productive activities of life has been won entirely through his own ability and efforts.

Mr. Miller was born in Campbell county, Tennessee, on the 18th of July, 1871, and is a son of John H. and Frances (Shepherd) Miller, both of whom were born in the year 1849,—the former in Tennessee and the latter in Virginia. The father is now a substantial exponent of farm enterprise in Richardson county, Nebraska, where he established his residence in 1884. He and his wife became the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest; Charles resides at Rulo, Richardson county; James is a drug clerk in the city of Chicago; Robert is a telegraph operator and is now residing in New Mexico; Jacob is associated in the work of his father's farm; Josephine is the wife of R. Seymour Coupe, a farmer in Richardson county; Laura is the wife of Louis C. Schnell, of Boise, Idaho; Annie is married and lives in the city of Portland, Oregon; Bessie is the wife of Charles A. Conn, of Seattle, Washington.

John H. Miller was reared and educated in Tennessee and is a son of Ashby Miller, who removed to that state from Virginia and who became a prosperous farmer: he was influential in local politics and served many years as justice of the peace. James Shepherd, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was a native of Virginia and became a substantial farmer in Tennessee, where he lived until his death. John H. Miller followed the business of brickmaking in his native state and in 1884 he came with his family to Nebraska and engaged in farming in Richardson county, where he and his wife still maintain their home. He is a Republican in politics, formerly served as a member of the Tennessee National Guard, at the close of the Civil war, and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

Horace M. Miller acquired his earlier education in the schools of his native state and was thirteen years old at the time of the family removal to Nebraska. Here he continued his studies in the public schools at Rulo, Richardson county, and at that place he was thereafter employed several years as clerk in a mercantile establishment. Thereafter he there served six years as assistant postmaster of Rulo, after which he learned the trade of telegraphy and for a time served as an operator for the Burlington Railroad. He then turned his attention to the grain business, at Rulo, where he remained until 1898, when he came to Gage county and took charge of the grain elevator at Filley, as representative of the Central Granaries Company, of Lincoln. He has since retained this position and has made an admirable record, few of the agents of this representative Nebraska corporation having

handled for it a larger amount of grain than has the popular agent at Filley.

On the 1st of November, 1891, Mr. Miller wedded Miss Laura A. Rickabaugh, who was born in the state of Ohio, a daughter of Henry Rickabaugh, who came to Nebraska in 1886, but who later returned to Ohio, where he still resides and where occurred the death of his wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born nine children: Maude A. is the wife of Clifford Armstrong, who is, in 1918, a student in a leading medical college in the city of Chicago; Helen is a popular teacher in the schools of Gotthenburg, Dawson county, Nebraska; John is a student in the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru; and Ruth, Frederick, Gertrude, Robert, Howard and Mildred remain at the parental home. Mrs. Miller is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a popular figure in the leading social activities of her home community.

Mr. Miller is past master of the local lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and is affiliated also with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he has given loyal and characteristically efficient service as a member of the village council of Filley, of which he was president for several terms, besides which he has been a valued member of the school board, of which he is serving in 1918 as moderator. He has given to his children the best of educational advantages, two of the number having completed courses in the state normal school at Peru and another of them being there a student at the time of this writing, as noted previously. The same provision will be made for the higher education of the younger children, and in no one sense can paternal stewardship be shown more effectively than in this direction.

JOHN A. EPARD, a representative farmer of Logan township, is a well known citizen who can claim the fine old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity. He was born in Clark county, Ohio, on the 21st of December, 1857, and in the same county were born also his parents, Simon and Jane (Anderson) Epard, representatives of pioneer families of that section of Ohio and now venerable citizens of Colby, Kansas, the father having celebrated in 1917 his eighty-second birthday and the mother her eighty-first. This sterling couple came to Gage county about 1877, and Simon Epard here farmed on rented land for a number of years. He then removed to Thomas county, Kansas, and took up a homestead farm near Colby, the county seat, in which attractive little city he and his wife have lived retired for a number of years. From Ohio Mr. Epard removed to Illinois, and from the latter state he came to number himself among the pioneers of Nebraska. He and his wife became the parents of five sons and two daughters, all of whom are living except one son: John, of this review, is the eldest of the number; Lon is a prosperous farmer in Logan township; Emma is the wife of John Gardiner, president of an insurance company in the city of Denver, Colorado; Samuel is a prosperous farmer in Thomas county, Kansas; Darwin is engaged in the banking business at Colby, that county; and Nancy is the wife of John Gillespie, a farmer of the same county. Simon Epard still owns his valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Thomas county, Kansas, as well as his residence property and other realty in Colby. He is a Democrat in politics and his wife is a member of the Christian church. His father, Samuel Epard, was a native of Maryland, and became a pioneer settler in Ohio, and he passed the closing years of his life in Indiana.

John Epard acquired his youthful education in the schools of Ohio and Illinois and at the age of twenty-one years he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where for a number of years thereafter he farmed on rented land. He purchased forty acres in Logan township in the second year of his residence in the county, his profits from his farm operations the first season having been four hundred dollars. He is now the owner of a well improved and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Logan township, as well as a half-section of land in Thomas county, Kansas, near Col-

by. He is a Democrat in politics and takes loyal interest in community affairs, though never an aspirant for public office of any kind. Mr. Epard still permits his name to remain enrolled on the list of eligible bachelors in Gage county.

FRANK H. BROWN, who is a stockholder of the Farmers' Grain & Coal Company of Cortland and who has active management of this representative industrial corporation, has the distinction not only of being a native son of Nebraska but also of being a scion of a family that was here founded in the early territorial era — nearly ten years prior to the admission of the state to the Union. He was born at Cook, Johnson county, Nebraska, March 13, 1868, and is a son of Robert S. and Rachel (Bentz) Brown. Robert S. Brown was born on a farm near Thompson, Windham county, Connecticut, on the 2nd of November, 1836, a son of James and Sarah (Shelly) Brown, who were representatives of families that were founded in New England in the colonial epoch of our national history and who were venerable citizens of Tecumseh, Johnson county, Nebraska, at the time of their death. Reared on a farm and given the advantages of the common schools of Connecticut, Robert S. Brown was seventeen years of age when he began his apprenticeship to the trade of blacksmith, in which he became a skilled artisan. In April, 1858, a few months after attaining to his legal majority, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Nebraska Territory. From Brownville, Nemaha county, they eventually removed to Johnson county, and there, in 1863, Robert S. Brown took up a homestead claim one and one-half miles northwest of the present village of Cook. He began the reclamation of his frontier farm but as a means of support continued to follow the work of his trade. He built a little log shop on the route of the old-time freighting line between Nebraska City and Beatrice, and here he did valuable service in shoeing the horses and doing repair work for the overland freighters. In 1865 he hauled from St. Joseph, Missouri, with horse teams one of the first threshing machines brought into southeastern Nebraska. His hearing became impaired when he was a youth and this fact rendered him ineligible for service as a soldier in the Civil war, but as a workman at this trade he was able to do his part in furtherance of the Union cause, as he did much repair work and horseshoeing for the military forces operating in this section of the country. Robert S. Brown developed his homestead of one hundred and sixty acres into one of the valuable farms of Johnson county and he continued to give to the same his active supervision until 1900, when he removed to the village of Cook, that county, where he is now living virtually retired, as one of the venerable and honored pioneers of Nebraska and as one of the oldest exponents of the sturdy trade of blacksmith in the entire state, his work at his trade having been continued to a greater or less extent during his entire active career. His wife, who has been his devoted companion and helpmeet for more than half a century, was born in Ohio, August 12, 1843, and was a child at the time of the family removal to Nebraska territory, her father, John Bentz, having become one of the early settlers near Sterling, Johnson county, where he reclaimed a farm from the prairie wilds and where he passed the residue of his life.

Robert S. and Rachel (Bentz) Brown became the parents of six children, all of whom were born on the old homestead farm in Johnson county: Gustie is the wife of J. Y. Hunt, of Cook, that county; Thaddeus B. died when about twenty four years of age; Frank H., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Lucy is the wife of Daniel Vliet, of Cook, this state; William S. is engaged in the blacksmithing business at Cortland, Gage county; and Bert B. follows the vocation of electrician at Cook, Johnson county.

Reared to the sturdy discipline of the frontier farm, Frank H. Brown grew strong of mind and physical powers, his early education having been gained in the district schools of Johnson county. He continued to be associated in the work of the home farm until his

marriage, in 1888, and thereafter he was engaged in independent farm enterprise in his native county until 1900, when he became associated with the conducting of a lumber business at Cook. In November, 1906, he came to Gage county and established his residence at Cortland, and here he has had since 1910 the management of the well equipped lumber yards of the Farmers' Grain & Coal Company. A substantial and progressive business man and valued citizen, he commands unqualified popular confidence and esteem.

On the 21st of September, 1888, Mr. Brown wedded Miss Flora Godfrey, a daughter of John W. and Sarah (Woods) Godfrey, who were born in Ohio and came from Illinois to Johnson county, Nebraska, in 1879, establishing their home near Vesta. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Brown is a daughter, Elsie M., who was graduated in the high school at Cook and who remains at the parental home, as a popular factor in the social life of the community.

In politics Mr. Brown accords allegiance to the Republican party, and he is serving in 1917-1918 as master of Highland Lodge, No. 194, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, besides maintaining affiliation with the Modern Woodmen of America.

HARRY E. SACKETT. — Gage county is signally favored in the personnel of its bar, and the representative lawyers here engaged in active practice are well upholding the prestige of their profession, both in character and achievement. He whose name initiates this paragraph has been engaged in the active general practice of his profession at Beatrice, judicial center of the county, since 1898, and is a member of the firm of Sackett & Brewster, which controls a large and important law business, retains a representative clientage and has had to do with much important litigation in the various courts of this section of the state. This history properly accords recognition to Mr. Sackett as one of the able and influential members of the Gage county bar and as a loyal and progressive citizen of the city of Beatrice.

Mr. Sackett was born on the parental homestead farm near Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio, on the 10th of October, 1874, and is a son of Oliver P. and Mary (Evans) Sackett, the former of whom passed the closing years of his life at Beatrice, Nebraska, where he died in 1913, his loved and devoted wife having preceded him to the life eternal, and the family home having been at Cameron, Missouri, at the time of her demise. The late Oliver P. Sackett was born in Connecticut and was a scion of one of the sterling English families that was founded in New England in the early colonial epoch of our national history, his grandfather, Benjamin Sackett, having been a patriot soldier in the war of the Revolution. During the greater part of his long and useful life Oliver P. Sackett continued his allegiance to the great fundamental industry of agriculture, and he was a successful farmer in Ohio, whence he finally removed with his family to Clinton county, Missouri, where he continued his residence until 1903. In that year he came to Gage county, Nebraska, here passing the residue of his life, as previously noted. The original American progenitors of the Sackett family came to this country in 1630, and in the early and later generations members of the family have stood exponent of sterling worth and lofty patriotism, the subject of this review being eligible for membership in the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Harry E. Sackett acquired his preliminary educational discipline in the public schools of Missouri, Ohio and Nebraska. With deep appreciation of the exacting demands in preparing himself for the legal profession, Mr. Sackett did not falter in his application to technical study and finally was matriculated in the law department of the University of Nebraska, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1898, his reception of the degree of Bachelor of Laws being virtually coincident with his admission to the Nebraska bar. After his graduation Mr. Sackett began his professional novitiate at Beatrice, where he has continued in the practice of law during the intervening years and where he has de-

HARRY E. SACKETT

veloped a substantial practice of essentially representative order, the character of his clientele giving the best assurance of his ability as a trial lawyer and well fortified counselor. He is senior member of the law firm of Sackett & Brewster, in which his confrere is Captain Charles L. Brewster.

Mr. Sackett is a prominent figure in the local camp of the Republican party but has only once appeared as a candidate for public office not directly in line with his profession, he having given four years of specially effective administration in the office of prosecuting attorney of Gage county. His secure place in popular confidence and good will was shown in his election to the Nebraska state senate, in 1907, and he proved one of the influential working members of the upper house during the legislative term for which he was elected. He was assigned to membership on important senate standing committees and introduced a number of bills that came to enactment as representative of wise legislation in behalf of his constituent district and the state at large. He has been influential in the councils and campaign activities of the Republican party in Nebraska, and in 1912 he was a delegate at large from this state to the Republican National Convention, held in Chicago. Mr. Sackett is a member of the directorate of the Beatrice Building & Loan Association. He and his wife are members of the Christian church in their home city, and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the local commandery of Knights Templars, as well as with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Highlanders.

On the 27th of September, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sackett to Miss Hermina Reynolds, daughter of the late Dr. Herman M. Reynolds, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work, the Doctor having been one of the most honored and influential pioneers of Beatrice and the first mayor of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Sackett have three children,—Dean R., Harry E., Jr., and Mary Louise.

GEORGE S. BURGER. — On his well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 7, Grant township, Mr. Burger is proving specially successful and influential as a breeder of short-horn cattle of the best type, and through his activities he is doing much to raise the grade of cattle in the county that has represented his home since he was a lad of eleven years and in which he is a representative of an honored pioneer family, a brief tribute to his father, John L. Burger, appearing elsewhere in this history and giving adequate data concerning the family. Mr. Burger is an active member of the Nebraska Short-horn Breeders' Association and from his fine herd of shorthorns he has made numerous sales for breeding purposes in Gage county. The leader of his herd is "Double Sultan," a son of the celebrated "Victor Sultan." He initiated his activities in the breeding of pure-bred short-horn cattle in 1907, has used the most careful methods and policies in the connection, and has become one of the leading exponents of this important phase of industrial enterprise in this section. He raises annually an average of about fifty head of the pure-bred short-horn stock and is known also as a successful grower of sheep.

Mr. Burger was born in Grundy county, Illinois, on the 22d of May, 1866, about one year after the immigration of his parents from Germany to America, and he is the first of the five children to have been born in the United States. He gained his early education in the schools of his native county and, as previously noted, was eleven years of age when the family came to Gage county, in 1877. Here he was reared to manhood on his father's pioneer farm, in Clatonia township, and in the meanwhile he profited by the advantages afforded in the schools of the locality. He continued to be associated in the work and management of the home farm until 1894, when he rented land from his father and initiated his independent activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. About the year 1899 he purchased from his father his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and the improvements which he has since made on the property mark it as one of the model stock farms of the county,— an attractive rural home that can not fail to challenge admiration and that gives

every indication of thrift and prosperity. His success has been the direct result of indefatigable energy and perseverance and in addition to his fine homestead farm he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Lincoln county, this state. He is one of the stockholders of the farmers' coöperative elevator company at Dewitt and is always ready to lend his influence in the furtherance of measures advanced for the general good of the community. He is independent in politics and has served continuously since 1901 as a member of the school board of District No. 149. Both he and his wife are communicants of the German Lutheran church.

On the 25th of February, 1891, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Burger to Miss Anna B. Ulrich, who was born in Illinois, July 9, 1864, a daughter of Charles G. Ulrich, a sterling Gage county pioneer of whom incidental mention is made on other pages, especially in the sketch dedicated to his son Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Burger have four children,—Albert F., Emma, Elmer and Erna,—all of whom remain at the parental home except Albert F., who is engaged in a garage at Dewitt, Saline county.

SAMUEL W. BEAM, a retired farmer and venerable citizen of Beatrice, has been a resident of Nebraska for somewhat more than thirty years and the prosperity which attends him represents the results of his productive farm activities in former years. A scion of a family that was early founded in Pennsylvania and that traces lineage back to German origin, Mr. Beam was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1836, and is a son of John and Nancy (Woolford) Beam, both likewise natives of the old Keystone state, where the father became a substantial farmer and where he passed his entire life, the mother having survived him and having been in the home of one of her daughters, in Ohio, when she passed to the life eternal. Of the eight children the subject of this sketch is the eldest of the three now living; William is a farmer near Desler, Ohio; and Rebecca, a widow, resides in the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana. John Beam was a member of the German Reformed church and his wife a communicant of the Lutheran church. He was a son of Christian Beam, who passed his entire life in Pennsylvania and whose parents were natives of Germany.

Samuel W. Beam was reared on his father's farm and gained his youthful education in the common schools of his native county. He continued his association with farm industry in Pennsylvania until 1870 when he removed to Ogle county, Illinois, where he rented land and was actively engaged in farming, near Polo, for eleven years. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Illinois, where he continued his activities six years, and in 1887 he came to Nebraska and rented a farm in Gage county. This farm, owned at the time by Frederick Bachle, continued as the stage of his productive labors for five years, at the expiration of which he purchased a half-section of land in Jefferson county. This property he developed into one of the valuable farms of that county and there he continued his residence until 1898, since which year he has lived retired in the city of Beatrice.

The year 1861 recorded the marriage of Mr. Beam to Miss Ephia McKeefer, who likewise was born and reared in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jeremiah and Lydia (Rose) McKeefer, who were residents of that state during their entire lives. Of the remarkable and interesting family of fifteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Beam all are living except two: Mrs. Laura Stauffer resides in the state of Illinois; Mrs. Louisa Graybill is a resident of Polo, that state; Mrs. Lizzie Gilbert likewise lives in Illinois; Mrs. Orpha Hamilton is a resident of San Diego, California; Mrs. Annie Morris lives at Holmesville, Gage county, Nebraska; Samuel is a successful farmer residing one-half mile south of Beatrice; Mrs. Ella Will lives near Holmesville, this county; Howard B. is a farmer near Holmesville; Mrs. Ida Elwood is the wife of a farmer in the same locality; Frank likewise is a farmer near Holmesville; Harry is associated with farm enterprise near Beatrice; Clara is the wife of H. E. Hill, of

Beatrice; and Grant also remains in Gage county. The devoted wife and mother was summoned to eternal rest on the 6th of March, 1905, she having been an earnest member of the Christian church, as is also Mr. Beam.

Mr. Beam has been significantly loyal in all of the relations of life and has shown a high sense of personal stewardship. Lasting honor is his for the service which he rendered as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, with which he served nine months,— until the expiration of his term of enlistment. In 1864 he again enlisted and his service from this time forward covered a period of eight months. He took part in the second battle of Bull Run, in 1862, and also in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, as well as in various minor engagements. Under his second enlistment he participated in the battle of Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, and in the battle of Petersburg. He was corporal of his company during his first term of enlistment. He is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and is a Republican in his political proclivities.

JACOB S. DELL is a popular member of a well known pioneer family concerning which adequate mention is made on other pages, in the sketch of the career of his brother, Joseph C. Dell, and he himself is numbered among the representative exponents of agricultural and live-stock industry in the county that has been his home since his boyhood. Mr. Dell is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in Section 15, Rockford township, a property which was purchased by him in 1904 and upon which he has made many modren improvements. He and his wife are prominent and zealous members of the Church of the Brethren, commonly designated as the Dunkard church, and he is assistant pastor of the South Beatrice church of this denomination.

Mr. Dell was born in Owen county, Indiana, May 11, 1868, and in the following year his parents removed to Iowa, where the family home was maintained until 1876, when removal was made to Gage county, Jacob S. having been at the time a lad of six years. He was reared on his father's farm in Rockford township and after having profited by the advantages of the old Rock school he was for two years a student in a school of higher academic order at McPherson, Kansas. He has been an ordained clergyman of the Brethren church since 1897 and has given earnest and effective service in the ministry. He is a broad-minded and progressive citizen.

In 1905 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Dell to Miss Naomi Cullen, daughter of James K. Cullen, who was born in Virginia and who came with his family to Gage county in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Dell have four children,— Pauline, Dwight, Dorothy and Violet.

OLTMAN OLTMANS, who is living practically retired on his attractive homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 8, Highland township, is also the owner of a well improved estate of equal area in Nuckolls county. He came to America as a young man with virtually no financial resources and through his own energy and ability has achieved substantial and worthy success.

Mr. Oltmans was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, November 18, 1844, and there he was reared and educated. In 1866 he was a soldier in the war between Germany and Austria, and he saw four days' of specially active conflict with the forces opposed to the Hanoverian regiment of which he was a member. In 1866, shortly after attaining to his legal majority, he made the voyage to America on a sailing vessel, and the ship required seven weeks and three days to complete the trip across the Atlantic. He was accompanied by his sister Hilda and soon after their arrival they proceeded to Logan county, Illinois, where he found employment as a farm hand. There he continued his active association with farm enterprise until the spring of 1880, when he came to Gage county, where he arrived in February of that year. He purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Highland township, and that constituted the nucleus around

which he has developed his splendid Gage county farm of the present day, his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Nuckolls county having been purchased in 1905 and one of his sons having active management of the same. With him success has not came as an accident but has been the result of earnest and persistent industry, so that he is the more appreciative of the gracious prosperity that is now his portion. He is fervently loyal to the land of his adoption, with realization of the fact that here he has found opportunities for winning independence and substantial success, and in both spirit and action he exemplifies the true American ideals of citizenship. His political support is given to the Democratic party, and he and his wife are zealous members of the German Methodist Episcopal church in their home precinct, he having been one of the organizers of the same.

Miss Ella Decker was born in Germany, May 23, 1852, and she was a girl when she came to the United States. In Illinois, on the 23d of March, 1875, she became the wife of Mr. Oltmans, and she has proved a true helpmeet to him in the years that have marked his advancement toward the goal of prosperity. In conclusion is given brief record concerning their children: Richard is a resident of Texas; Rinehart has charge of his father's farm in Nuckolls county; Oltman Frederick is associated with his brother in the operation of the farm in Nuckolls county; William and George are prosperous farmers in Highland township; and Herman and Nettie remain at the parental home.

FRANK C. CROCKER is another of the native sons of Gage county whose civic and industrial loyalty is manifested in his successful activities as a representative of farm enterprise, his well improved homestead farm being situated in Section 16, Filley township, where he carries forward progressive and vigorous work in the line of diversified agriculture and is proving specially successful also in the breeding and raising of cattle and swine of superior order. He was born in Filley township, on the 1st of May, 1877, and adequate data concerning the family history are given in the sketch dedicated to his father, Hiram P. Crocker, on other pages of this volume.

Mr. Crocker gained his preliminary education in the district schools, later attended the village schools at Filley and thereafter completed a course in the Beatrice Business College. He has never wavered in his allegiance to the basic industries with which he became familiar in his boyhood, and has proved a most successful and aggressive exponent of farm enterprise in his native county.

In 1900 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Crocker to Miss Dora Belle Bowen, who was born at Shawnee, Perry county, Ohio, a daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Morgan) Bowen, who were born, reared, and married in Wales and who established their home in Ohio upon coming to the United States: in the '80s they came to Gage county, Nebraska, and settled in Midland township, where the father engaged in farming and where both he and his wife pased the remainder of their lives. Of their nine children eight are living, Mrs. Crocker having been the fifth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Crocker have five children — Paul, Elton, Margaret, Harold, and Edith.

Mr. Crocker is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are active members of the Christian church in the village of Filley. He has attained to marked prominence and influence as a successful breeder and grower of fine live stock and served five years as president of the Nebraska Swine Breeders' Association, besides which he was for two years a member of the state live-stock commission, under the administration of Governor Moorehead, he having been influential in effecting the establishing of this commission or board, which has done much to advance the live-stock industry in the state. Mr. Crocker's operations are conducted on the fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres which he recently purchased from his father, and upon an adjoining tract of three hundred and twenty acres that he rents. He is an extensive breeder of pure-blood Duroc-Jersey swine, his business in the handling of this fine type of swine being the

largest of all private sales enterprises of the kind in the entire west and having given him wide reputation in farm industrial circles. He ships from his farm the finest types of Duroc-Jersey swine into all parts of the west, and has made this department of his farm enterprise a specialty for fully fifteen years. He feeds an average of more than one hundred head of cattle each year and he is a leader in advanced farm enterprise in this favored section of his native state. He and his family occupy the pleasant old homestead in which he was born and reared, and his progressiveness is shown not only in his individual activities but also in his insistent civic loyalty. About 1908 Mr. Crocker began zealous work to bring about legislative action for the providing of a fund to be used in driving hog cholera from the state, and finally an appropriation of five thousand dollars was made by the legislature for this purpose. Later Mr. Crocker was equally influential in obtaining a legislative appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars to be used in the establishing and maintaining of a state laboratory in which a serum should be manufactured for application in rendering swine immune from the cholera. In short, it may consistently be said that no other man in the state has done more to further the swine industry within its limits than has he, and his efforts in the suppression of hog cholera have been specially potent and beneficent.

GERD B. WIESE is another of the representative farmers of Gage county who claims the district of Ostfriesland, Province of Hanover, Germany, as the place of his nativity, his birth having there occurred on the 19th of September, 1869, and his parents, Bohle and Sarke (Loschen) Wiese, having there passed their entire lives. In the schools of his native land Mr. Wiese gained his early education and there also he gained his early experience in connection with agricultural pursuits. He was twenty-two years of age when he severed the home ties and came to the United States, in 1892, and in that year was recorded also his arrival in Gage county. Here for the ensuing three years he was employed at farm work in Hanover township, and thereafter he was engaged in independent farm operations on land which he held under a Scully lease until 1905, when he purchased his present fine farm of two hundred acres, in Section 18, Filley township. Of the buildings on the place when he bought the property there is remaining only the main part of the house, which he has so remodeled and improved as to make it one of the attractive rural homes of the township, besides which he has erected other farm buildings of model type,—all standing in evidence of his progressiveness and good management as an agriculturist and stock-grower. For the first year of his residence in Gage county Mr. Wiese received wages of only sixteen dollars a month, and what he has achieved in the intervening years is shown definitely in his ownership of his present valuable farm property. Mr. Wiese gives loyal support to the Republican party and he served several years as treasurer of his school district. Both he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

In Johnson county, this state, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wiese to Miss Grace Aden, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, January 15, 1870, a daughter of Fokke and Anke (Behrens) Aden, now residents of Johnson county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Wiese have two sons, John and Frank.

JOHN L. FRERICHS is giving his attention to the management of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, belonging to his father, in Section 29, Logan township, and his pleasant home receives mail service on rural route No. 3 from the city of Beatrice. He was born in Illinois, June 22, 1881, and is a son of Lammert W. Frerichs, concerning whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work, so that further review of the family history is not required in the present connection.

John L. Frerichs was about one year of age at the time of the family removal to Gage county, and here he was reared on his father's farm in Logan township, while his youthful

GERD B. WIESE AND FAMILY

education was obtained in the public schools of the locality. For the past fifteen years he has been engaged in farming enterprise in an independent way, and since 1906 he has resided on this farm, which has been improved with good buildings since he assumed control and which gives palpable evidence of thrift and good management. Mr. Frerichs is independent in politics, is serving as township clerk, to which office he was elected in 1916, and is also a director of school district No. 115, both he and his wife being members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Frerichs chose as his wife Miss Fannie Schuster, daughter of Evert and Anna Schuster, and the three children of this union are Marie, Evert, and Willis.

LAMMERT FRERICHS has all departments of his farm enterprise well organized and is one of the progressive agriculturists and stock-growers of the younger generation in Logan township, his well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres being situated in Section 31 and being a part of the large estate owned by his father, L. W. Frerichs, of whom individual mention is made on other pages.

Lammert Frerichs attended in his youth the public schools and also well ordered German schools, and at the age of twenty-one years he began his independent operations on his present home place, his success being shown by the very appearance of the farm, which is kept up to the best modern standard. As a progressive citizen he gives his support to the cause of the Democratic party, and he and his wife are active communicants of the Lutheran church.

In 1909 Mr. Frerichs married Miss Catherine Jobman, who was born in Dawson county, this state, and whose father, John Jobman, now resides in the city of Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Frerichs have four children — Lammert, Jr., John, Pope, and Reinhard.

JOSEPH S. STANEK. — In Section 24, Sherman township, is located the attractive and well ordered homestead farm of Mr. Stanek, who is a native son of Nebraska and a representative of a pioneer family of Pawnee county. He was born in that county, on the 11th of May, 1871, and is a son of Anton and Anna (Kovanda) Stanek, both natives of Bohemia, where they were reared to maturity, both having been young folk when they came to the United States. In 1867, the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood, Anton Stanek numbered himself among the pioneers of Pawnee county, where he reclaimed and improved a farm and met his full share of the hardships that fell to the lot of the early settlers of Nebraska. He won success and prosperity through his industry and good management and continued his residence in Pawnee county until his death, his widow being now a resident of Humboldt, Richardson county. Of their six children the subject of this review is the eldest; Albert is deceased; Frank and James are engaged in farm enterprise in Pawnee county; Fannie remains with her widowed mother; and Annie is the wife of Frederick Fridley, of Humboldt, this state.

Joseph S. Stanek was born in the pioneer dugout which at the time constituted the home of his parents, and was reared under the conditions marking the pioneer days, his early educational advantages having been those of the district schools. His father was killed in a railroad accident and Joseph S., as eldest of the children, thereafter assumed the management of the home farm and the providing for his mother and the other members of the family. At the age of twenty-nine years he engaged independently in farm industry in his native county, and two years later he purchased his present farm and became one of the enterprising and industrious agriculturists of Gage county, his well directed energies having brought to him a generous success and having marked him as a thorough-going farmer. He is independent in politics and gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He served ten years as a member of the school board of his district and is a citizen who commands high esteem.

At the age of twenty-eight years Mr. Stanek

wedded Miss Anna Hubka, daughter of Albert Hubka, of whom mention is made on other pages, and the one child of this union is a son, Lester.

It may consistently be stated that the father of Mr. Stanek was a mason by trade, and that in the early period of his residence in Nebraska he supplemented his income by work at his trade. In this connection he frequently walked to Brownville and Lincoln to find employment at his trade, and he received compensation of five dollars a day, which he used in providing for his family. He assisted in the building of the state penitentiary in the city of Lincoln. He worked at intervals in Iowa also, and once when he and his partner were ready to cross the Missouri river they found the ferry out of commission, under which conditions they placed their clothing on their shoulders and swam the entire distance across the stream. In his pioneer home his wife used a coffee-mill to grind corn for food.

In 1917 Mr. Stanek purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Saskatchewan, Canada, where he will farm during the summer seasons, returning to Gage county, during the winter months.

JOHN D. THORNBURG. — In the year that marked the admission of Nebraska to statehood Mr. Thornburg numbered himself among the pioneer settlers in Gage county and during the long intervening period of half a century he has continuously held precedence as one of the representative citizens and farmers of Midland township, where he is now the owner of a well improved landed estate of two hundred acres. He endured his share of the hardships and trials incidental to pioneer life, did well his part in the furtherance of civic and material development and progress and is a sterling citizen to whom it is gratifying to accord recognition in this publication.

Mr. Thornburg was born in Randolph county, Indiana, July 30, 1846, and is a son of John L. and Harriet (Diggs) Thornburg, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in Pennsylvania, their marriage having been solemnized in the Hoosier state. John L. Thornburg, who was born in the year 1821 and whose death occurred in 1911, was reared and educated in Indiana and was a scion of a sterling pioneer family of that state. He was a son of Joab A. and Betsy (Holoway) Thornburg, the former of whom likewise was born in Ohio, his father, Isaac Thornburg, having been one of the very early settlers in the old Buckeye state and having served as a soldier in the war of 1812. John Diggs, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was a native of England and became a pioneer settler in Ohio, to which state he removed from Pennsylvania. John L. Thornburg was a lad of seven years at the time of his parents' removal from Ohio to Indiana, where he grew to man's estate and where he continued his alliance with farm industry until he removed with his family to Iowa. He thus became a pioneer of the Hawkeye state, as did he later of Nebraska, to which latter commonwealth he came in 1869. He made Gage county his destination, purchased land in Rockford township and here he developed a productive farm. Eventually he sold the property and removed to Kansas, in which state he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, theirs having been the distinction of being pioneers in each of three now opulent states of the west. Both were birthright members of the Society of Friends, to which gracious faith they adhered all their lives. In politics Mr. Thornburg was originally an old-line Whig, but he espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and thereafter supported its principles until his death. Of his nine children five are now living,— Mrs. Olive Moore, of Morgan county, Kansas; John D., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Lydia Stapes, a resident of Iowa; Mrs. Rachel Fetrel, of Washington county, Kansas; and Mrs. Catherine Henry, who maintains her home in the state of Idaho.

John D. Thornburg was reared on the old home farm in Indiana and acquired his early education in the common schools of that state. He was eighteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Iowa, in 1864, and there he remained until 1867, when he came to the

new state of Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 25, Midland township, and here he has resided during the passing years, which have brought to him a generous measure of success and prosperity, as well as inviolable place in the confidence and esteem of all who know him. On his embryonic farm he provided as his first domicile a rude dugout of the type common to the early pioneer days, and later he manifested his enterprise, as well as his increasing prosperity, by erecting his present attractive residence, as well as other excellent farm buildings. He has been a vigorous and resourceful exponent of agricultural and live-stock industry in this section of the state and, as before stated, is now the owner of a fine farm property of two hundred acres. He has given special attention to the raising of full-blood Red Polled cattle. Mr. Thornburg recalls that when he first established his home on his present farm his nearest neighbor was sixteen miles distant, and he has done his share in bringing about the marvelous changes that have been wrought in the intervening years. His courage has been on a parity with his ambitious purpose and he never faltered in the face of difficulties and reverses while he was striving to reclaim and develop his farm and to aid in civic and material advancement, his devoted wife having been his earnest helpmeet and coadjutor. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and his civic loyalty has been shown in his effective service as township assessor, of which office he was the incumbent for two years, and as a member of the school board of his district. He has been for many years an active member of the Christian church, of which his wife likewise was an earnest adherent.

In 1865 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Thornburg to Miss Mary E. Ford, who likewas born in Indiana. She was a daughter of Dr. R. and Elizabeth (Bricker) Ford, who were residents of Iowa at the time of their death. The supreme loss and bereavement in the life of Mr. Thornburg was that entailed in the death of his loved wife, who was summoned to eternal rest on the 22nd day of October, 1915, and whose memory is revered by all who came within the compass of her gentle influence. Of their nine children six are living: Alonzo U. is a prosperous farmer in Osborn county, Kansas; Elvin A. is engaged in farm enterprise in the state of Oregon; Rosanna is the wife of Elmer E. Phillips, of Custer county, Nebraska; Frank V. has active charge of his father's farm, in association with his younger brother, and is also the owner of a farm of ninety acres, in Midland township; Miss Pearl remains at the parental home; and Charles E. is associated in the work and management of the home farm.

CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. — The well ordered farm of Mr. Andersen comprises one hundred and sixty acres and is situated in Section 35, Hooker township. He purchased this property in 1884, the land having at the time been entirely unimproved, and with the passing years he has reclaimed the farm most effectively and made it one of the valuable places of Hooker township. He has provided excellent buildings and unequivocal success has attended his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. Mr. Andersen is consistently to be designated as a pioneer citizen of Nebraska, in which state he has maintained his home for nearly half a century and in which he has stood exponent of loyal and appreciative citizenship. His political support is given to the Republican party and he and his wife are earnest members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Andersen was born and reared in Denmark, the date of his nativity having been September 2, 1842. He is a son of Nis and Eliza (Gissen) Andersen, the latter of whom died in Denmark. Nis Andersen came to the United States in 1881 and he passed the remainder of his life in Illinois, his vocation in his native land having been that of a farmer. Of the six children the subject of this sketch is the younger of the two surviving, and Andrew is living retired in Bureau county, Illinois.

Christian Andersen gained his early educa-

tion in the schools of his native land, and there he served on two different occasions as a member of the Danish army. He came to the United States in 1871, and for some time he found employment in the city of Chicago, after which he was for seven years engaged in farming in Bureau county, Illinois, in which state he resided for a total of twelve years. In the autumn of 1884 he came to Nebraska, and here his energy, industry, and ability have gained to him substantial prosperity, he having been for many years one of the successful farmers of Gage county.

In 1872 Mr. Andersen wedded Miss Mary C. Hendricksen, who likewise was born in Denmark, a daughter of Peter Hendricksen, who there passed his entire life. Mr. and Mrs. Andersen became the parents of six children and concerning them brief record is here given: Christina is the wife of T. Thompson, a farmer in Filley township; Matta is the wife of Harry Yohe, of the same township; Peter R., who is an active manager of his father's farm, married Anna Christiansen, whose death occurred November 29, 1915, and who is survived by three children — Marion, Howard, and Julia; Anna is the wife of Wood Lovett, of Johnson county; Andrew is engaged in farming in Hooker township; and Millie is the wife of Carl Sorensen, of Filley township.

AUGUST HASENOHR is another of the sterling citizens given to Gage county by the great empire of Germany, and in the state of his adoption he has through his own ability and energy so taken advantage of opportunities as to win for himself substantial prosperity. He came to Gage county shortly after attaining to his legal majority and here he found employment at farm work. What the intervening years credit to him in achievement is shown in his ownership at the present time of a valuable landed estate of six hundred and forty acres,— comprising two different farms in Gage county and one — of one hundred and sixty acres — near Dewitt, Saline county. His fine homestead farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, is one of the model places of Holt township and is situated in Section 8, about four miles distant from the village of Pickrell, which is his post-office address. On this homestead Mr. Hasenohr has made the best of modern improvements, his barn, thirty-six by forty-four feet in dimensions, having been erected in 1910, and the following year having recorded the erection of his handsome farm residence of twelve rooms.

Mr. Hasenohr was born in the province of Westphalia, Germany, January 22, 1866, and is a son of Herman and Elizabeth (Saving) Hasenohr, who passed their entire lives in that section of Germany: of their seven children the subject of this review is the only one in the United States.

August Hasenohr was reared and educated in his native province, where his father was a prosperous farmer, and in 1888, at the age of twenty-two years, he severed the ties that bound him to home and fatherland, in order that he might win for himself independence and prosperity in the United States. Soon after his arrival he came to Gage county, and for the first summer he was employed on a farm in Holt township. His previous experience well fitted him for independent enterprise as an agriculturist and stock-grower, and as his financial resources were not sufficient to justify him in purchasing a farm, he achieved the desired end to a certain extent by renting land near Pickrell, where he continued farming under these conditions, and with cumulative success, until 1897, when he made his first purchase of land,— a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 15, Holt township. There he continued his residence until 1908, when he removed to his present homestead farm. With increasing prosperity Mr. Hasenohr continued to make judicious investment in Gage county land, and he is at the present time the owner of a valuable and well improved Gage county estate of four hundred and eighty acres, as previously intimated in this article. He is one of the substantial stockholders in the farmers' grain elevator at Pickrell, is a Republican in politics, and is honored as a loyal and liberal

citizen, as well as a man of sterling character and worthy achievement. Both he and his wife are active communicants of the German Lutheran church.

February 19, 1886, recorded the marriage of Mr. Hasenohr to Miss Carolina Tesmann, and about two years later she accompanied him on his immigration to America. She was born in Westphalia, Germany, July 27, 1859, and has been to her husband a true companion and helpmeet during the years that have marked his steady advancement toward the goal of prosperity. Of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Hasenohr the first two were born in Germany: William is now a successful farmer east of the city of Beatrice; Anna is the wife of Henry Henke, of Otoe county, this state; Theodore is a progressive farmer in Holt township and Frederick near Dewitt, Saline county; Lillie is the wife of Dick Helmke, of Holt township; and Alfred and Oscar remain at the parental home.

BRUNO J. BUHR is the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in Section 24, Hanover township, has been a resident of Gage county since he was two years of age and his present farm is a part of the excellent landed estate accumulated by his father, who was a sterling pioneer of the county. He gives his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-raising, and in his farm enterprise is distinctly energetic and progressive, so that success comes to him as normal perogative.

Mr. Buhr was born in Atchison county, Missouri, October 19, 1878, and is a son of John G. and Grace (Holz) Buhr, both of whom were born and reared in Germany. In America their original home was in Illinois, where Mr. Buhr was engaged in Farming for a few years, after which he removed to Missouri and continued in the same basic line of enterprise, as did he later, for one year, in Kansas. He came to Gage county about the year 1880, and after farming for a time on rented land he purchased one hundred acres in Hanover township, where he later bought an additional tract, of one hundred and twenty acres. He reclaimed his farm from the virgin prairie, made good improvements on the place and on the old homestead both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, both having been zealous members of the German Lutheran church. Of their eight children five are living: Annie, who resides on her farm in Filley township, is the widow of Albert Lukin; John J. is a prosperous farmer in Logan township; Albert J. is a farmer in Norton county, Kansas; Gerd is engaged in successful farm enterprise in Hanover township; and the subject of this review is the youngest of the number.

Bruno J. Buhr acquired his early education in the district schools and thereafter continued to be associated with his father in the management of the home farm, which he finally purchased, by acquiring the interests of the other heirs, in 1907. He permits nothing to deflect him from his close application to the work and management of his farm but is loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, his political support being given to the Democratic party and he and his wife being active communicants of the German Lutheran church.

The year 1904 recorded the marriage of Mr. Buhr to Miss Grace Ackermann, who was born and reared in this county, a daughter of John and Geska (Schuster) Ackermann, who here established their home in the pioneer days. Of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Buhr all are living save one and the names of the surviving children are here entered in respective order of birth: Grace, Geska, John, Tillie, Menna and Rosie.

JESTUN O. McCLUNG was in the very prime of his vigorous and useful manhood when he was called from the stage of life's mortal endeavors, in 1892, at the age of forty-five years, and just prior to his demise he had purchased the farm of fifty-five acres, in Section 32, Filley township, on which his widow still maintains her home.

Jestun Otto McClung was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, on the 6th of September, 1846, and was twelve years of age when his parents removed to Missouri, where he was reared to adult age and where he completed

MR. AND MRS. JOHN G. BUHR

his school work. As a young man he came to Nebraska and leased a farm in Lancaster county. Later he was engaged in farming under similar conditions in Johnson county, and finally he came to Gage county, where he became a farmer on rented land in Filley township. He was industrious and progressive and his success was shown when he finally purchased a farm of his own, but his death occurred shortly afterward, before he had removed with his family to the place. He was a man of sterling character, commanded unqualified popular esteem and was a loyal and progressive citizen of the state and county of his adoption. His political support was given to the Republican party and he was a member of the Baptist church, as was also his widow, who now holds membership in the Christian church.

After the death of her husband Mrs. McClung removed with her four sons to the farm which he had purchased, and here she has maintained her residence for a quarter of a century. Within this period excellent improvements have been made on the farm, which is well managed and yields good returns.

In Lancaster county, this state, the year 1877 recorded the marriage of Mr. McClung to Miss Albertina Krantz, who was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, a daughter of William Krantz. She was a child when her parents came to Nebraska and numbered themselves among the pioneers of Johnson county, and when she was but five years old her mother died. Her father later contracted a second marriage, and when Mrs. McClung was twelve years old she came to Gage county to make her home with the family of Lucius Filley, with whom she remained two years. In the meanwhile she had duly profited by the advantages of the pioneer schools, and after leaving the home of Mr. Filley she went to Lancaster county, where she met and finally became the wife of Mr. McClung, with whom she returned to Gage county. With all of maternal devotion she has reared her four sons, each of whom accords to her the fullest measure of filial love and solicitude and all of whom are now well established in life: Louis is a prosperous farmer in Sherman township; John B. is a resident of the state of California; Guy is in Franklin county, Nebraska; and Claton C. remains with his mother and has active management of the farm.

Mrs. McClung's memory touches the pioneer period in Nebraska history and she recalls that when she was a child the Indians not infrequently called at the home of her father. In Gage county, as a girl, she assisted in fighting prairie fires, and she drove Mr. Filley's ponies to Beatrice when the present attractive city was a mere village with much of the present business and residence district marked by sloughs and pond-holes. She remembers incidents relative to the trip which she made with her parents from Wisconsin to Nebraska, the journey having been made with wagon and ox team and a cow having been tied behind the wagon. In fording a river en route the life of the cow was nearly sacrificed, as it narowly escaped drowning. Mrs. McClung finds pleasure in reminiscences concerning the early days, especially in view of the fact that she has been a witness of the various stages of progress that have brought opulent civic and industrial prosperity to this section of the comonwealth.

JOSEPH L. WEBB, M. D., attained to more than local prestige in the exacting profession that had been so signally dignified and honored by the services of his father, the late Dr. Joseph Luther Webb, who was one of the leading pioneer physicians and most influential citizens of Gage county and to whom a memorial tribute is entered on other pages of this publication, so that further review of the family history is not here demanded. It may be said, however, that few families have been more prominently and worthily identified with civic and material development and progress in this favored section of Nebraska than that of which the subject of this review is a popular representative. Though unequivocal success had been his in the practice of his profession and as a factor in its educational work, Dr. Joseph Lewis Webb re-

tired from active practice in the spring of 1914, in order that he might give his personal supervision to the development and management of one of the large and valuable farm properties near his native city of Beatrice, and on this estate, in Riverside township, he now maintains his residence. In his farm enterprise he is bringing to bear the most approved scientific methods and the most modern facilities, and his executive ability is such that he has made the farm a veritable model in general efficiency of operation, as it is also in its improvements, the while he is giving special attention to the raising of pure-bred live stock and also the better types of graded stock.

Dr. Joseph Lewis Webb, third son of the late Dr. Joseph Luther Webb and Kate Louise (Sheppard) Webb, was born at Beatrice, this county, January 25, 1884. His early educattional advantages were those afforded in the public schools of his native city, which was then a mere village, and he had also the fostering influences of a home of distinctive culture and refinement. He prosecuted higher academic studies in Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa, and in Cotner University, at Lincoln, Nebraska. In preparation for his chosen profession he attended first the Lincoln Medical College, in the capital city of his native state, and later the Bennett Medical College, in the city of Chicago, in which latter institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1906 and from which he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine. After a period devoted to travel, Dr. Webb engaged in the practice of his profession at Hebron, judicial center of Thayer county, Nebraska, but later he returned to Chicago and became an attache of the general staff of the Jefferson Park Polyclinic & Hospital, where he gained broad and varied clinical experience and where he remained thus engaged about two years, in the meanwhile having been retained to give courses of lectures before the students of his alma mater, Bennett Medical College and also those of the Jefferson Park Hospital training school for nurses. After severing these relapany A, Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, tions the Doctor again spent some time in travel and then he returned to Beatrice and became associated with his father in active general practice. His technical attainments here further brought to him recognition in connection with educational work in his profession, as he was called upon to deliver lectures before the students of the Lincoln Medical College at Lincoln, Nebraska, and also those of the Mennonite Hospital Training School for Nurses, at Beatrice. As a practitioner he added to the prestige of the family name in Gage county, where his father had for many years held precedence as one of the leading physicians and surgeons of this section of the state, and finally, as previously noted, he withdrew from active professional work to give his attention to his farm interests. The Doctor is a Republican in politics and his is a most vital interest in all things touching the welfare and advancement of his native city and county, his attitude being that of a broad-gauged and public-spirited citizen.

August 16, 1905, recorded the marriage of Dr. Webb to Miss Iva M. Gamble, of Beatrice, she being a daughter of George W. Gamble, a member of a well known pioneer family that early made settlement northwest of Beatrice. Dr. and Mrs. Webb have three children, whose names and respective dates of birth are here indicated: Joseph Lewis, Jr., February 16, 1907; George Harold, February 11, 1911; and Edna Katherine, September 8, 1914.

JAMES FISHER is another of the sterling citizens who has won success and independence through long continued association with farm enterprise in Gage county, and his present attractive home farm, of one hundred and forty acres, is situated in Section 4, Sherman township.

Mr. Fisher was born in Bohemia, Germany, March 1, 1857, was there reared and educated and was twenty-two years of age when he came to the United States. He landed in the port of New York city and his financial resources were at such low ebb that he was compelled to borrow twenty-four dollars to pay his railroad fare

to Nebraska. Upon arriving in this state he settled in Johnson county, where he was employed for the following three months at farm work, with a compensation of but eight dollars a month. He was so frugal that he soon was able to pay the debt which he had incurred in coming to Nebraska, and after having worked about eight years as a farm employe he had saved one hundred dollars, besides having become the owner of a small house. He sold the house and with the one hundred dollars thus added to his savings he purchased a lease on school land, incidentally assuming a debt of two hundred dollars. After his marriage he continued his operations on this land eight years, and he then sold the lease and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Filley township, Gage county. This was wild prairie land, in Section 1, and on the place he erected a house and other modest farm buildings. There he continued his activities as a farmer and stock-grower for ten years, and in 1910 he purchased his present well improved homestead farm, besides which he owns eighty acres in Filley township and, in 1917, gave a farm of eighty acres to one of his sons. Mr. Fisher endured his full share of the hardships incidental to pioneer life and recalls that in the early days he sold wheat for only thirty cents a bushel. After his marriage he and his wife occupied for some time a little frame house that was only fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, and that afforded entirely inadequate protection during the cold winters, the walls of the little dwelling being frequently covered with frost, so cold was the interior of the building. Mr. Fisher has been unremitting in his industry and, in the face of many handicaps, has achieved substantial success.

In Johnson county was solemnized his marriage to Miss Anna Brush, who likewise was born in Bohemia, and they have four children: Frank, who is a successful farmer in Filley township is married and has two children; Rudolph and his wife reside on another excellent farm in Filley township: Joseph, who is married and has one child, is a prosperous farmer in Sherman township; and Helen is the wife of Frank Hubka, of Sherman township, they having one child.

Mr. Fisher is a loyal citizen of the county and state in which he has found opportunities for the winning of independence and prosperity and though in a basic way he supports the cause of the Democratic party he is not restricted by partisan lines in local affairs and gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment.

GEORGE M. STEECE is lawyer by profession but has proved his versatility by his specially successful activities in connection with farm industry in Gage county, where he owns and operates a splendidly improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 25, Logan township.

Mr. Steece was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, on the 2d of July, 1852, and is a son of Archibald and Helen (Sterne) Steece, the former of whom was born in Ohio, in 1824 and died in 1900, and the latter of whom was born in Virginia, she having celebrated her eighty-seventh birthday anniversary in 1918 and being still a resident of Gage county. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Lawrence county, Ohio, where the father followed the trade of iron moulder. He went forth as a valiant soldier of the Union when the Civil war was precipitated on the nation. In response to President Lincoln's first call, he enlisted, in 1861, as a member of Company A, Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he proceeded to the front and continued in active service one year and four months, at the expiration of which he was given an honorable discharge, on account of physical disability. After the war he continued his residence in Ohio until 1877, when he removed with his family to Benton county, Iowa, and in 1881 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased the homestead now owned by his son George M., the immediate subject of this sketch, who is the only child. On this farm Mr. Steece passed the remainder of his life, and he achieved success in connection with farm enterprise in this county. He was a Republican in politics, and was affiliated with

the Grand Army of the Republic, his widow being an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Archibald Steece was a son of George Steece, who was born in Maryland, and who became a successful manufacturer of pig iron in Ohio, later following the same line of enterprise in Missouri, where his death occurred, the family lineage tracing back to staunch Holland Dutch origin. William Sterne, maternal grandfather of the subject of this review, was born in Virginia and removed thence to Ohio in 1847. He became a successful and influential exponent of the iron industry in the Buckeye state, where he passed the closing years of his life.

George M. Steece acquired his early education in the public schools of his native state and finally he entered the law department of the celebrated University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, from which he received his degree of Bachelor of Laws upon his graduation as a member of the class of 1873. For two years thereafter he was engaged in the practice of his profession at Vinton, Iowa, and in 1881 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Gage county, where he has since been in active charge of the farm purchased by his father. He has erected all of the present farm buildings, which are of model type, and is one of the successful agriculturist and stock-growers of the county.

In 1879 Mr. Steece wedded Miss Eva Gamble, who was born in Wabash county, Indiana, a daughter George and Mary (Squire) Gamble, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble finally removed with their family to Iowa, where the death of the latter occurred, and he was a resident of Colorado at the time of his death. Both he and his wife were of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Steece have five children: Lottie is the wife of David Thompson, of Riverside township; Jessie J. is the wife of James C. Carmichael, who rents and operates the farm of Mr. Steece; Louis is an agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in the city of Beatrice; Guy is engaged in farming in Logan township; and Florence is the wife of C. Peter Jensen, likewise a farmer in this township.

In politics Mr. Steece is a staunch Republican, thoroughly fortified in his convictions concerning economic and governmental policies, and he has held various township offices, including that of assessor, of which he is the incumbent in 1918. He passed one summer in Omaha as an attache of the meat inspection service of the agricultural department of the government, and it should be noted that prior to coming to Nebraska he was for two years editor and publisher of the *Benton County Democrat*, at Vinton, Iowa. On his farm he gives special attention to the raising of pure-blood Jersey cattle. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

J. J. KING is one of the vigorous and successful farmers of Filley township, where he conducts operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower on three hundred and twenty acres of rented land, besides being the owner of his attractive little homestead farm, of thirty acres, in Section 32. He is a son of Charles W. King, of whom specific mention is made on other pages, so that further review of the family history is not here demanded.

Mr. King was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, on the 23d of March, 1871, and was five years of age at the time of the family removal to Gage county, Nebraska, where he was reared on a farm and received the advantages of the local schools. As a young man he engaged in independent farming on rented land in Filley township, and in 1905 he purchased his present homestead place of thirty acres, upon which he continues to make excellent improvements from time to time. He is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1912 was recorded the marriage of Mr. King to Miss Emma Shelton, who was born in the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, and who is the popular chatelaine of their pleasant home. They have no children.

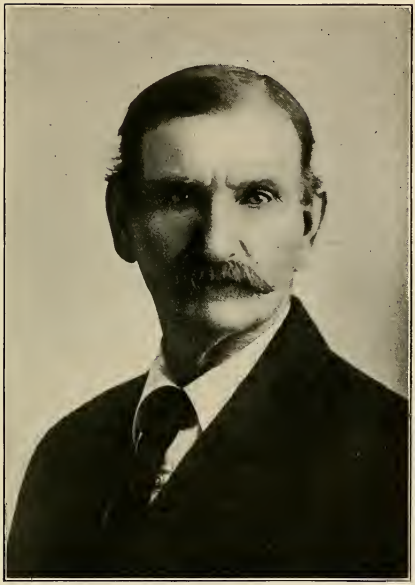
MARTIN FRITZEN makes each successive year count in productive activity and cumulative prosperity in connection with the varied operations on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres which is his place of residence, in Section 21, Logan township, the property belonging to his father, Lammert Fritzen, an honored pioneer of the county.

Martin Fritzen was born in Adams county, Illinois, on the 26th of January, 1873, and was only a boy at the time of the family removal to Gage county, Nebraska, where he was reared on his father's farm and where he profited duly by the advantages afforded in the district schools of Logan township. At the age of twenty-four years he began farming in an independent way, and his energy and good judgment have brought to him a generous measure of success in his operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower. He recalls the conditions that obtained in the pioneer period of Gage county history and as a boy he herded cattle over the prairies, when settlers were few and widely separated. Mr. Fritzen is a Democrat in politics and has been called upon to serve in the offices of justice of the peace and road supervisor, in each of which he acquitted himself with characteristic ability and fidelity. Both he and his wife are active communicants of the Lutheran church.

In 1899 Mr. Fritzen wedded Miss Ricka Buss, who likewise is a native of Adams county, Illinois, and they have seven children: Annie, Lammert, Gerhard, Otto, Martin, Jr., Carl, and John, all of whom remain members of the ideal family circle of the parental home.

WILLIAM R. JONES. — Though he has not advanced far beyond the psalmist's span of three score years and ten and has the mental and physical vigor that belies even this age, Mr. Jones has the enviable distinction of being at the present time the earliest settler of Beatrice now living within its gracious borders. He was a lad of eleven years when he accompanied his parents on their immigration to Nebraska Territory, in 1857, and the family home was in that year established in Gage county,—a full decade prior to the admission of the state to the Union. It can thus be realized that the memory of this honored pioneer compasses virtually the entire gamut that has been run in the development of this section of Nebraska from a prairie wilderness to a populous and opulent district of a great commonwealth, and it is gratifying to him that he has been able to play a part in the civic and industrial progress and upbuilding of Gage county.

Mr. Jones was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, on the 9th of September, 1846, and is a son of Samuel and Rebecca (Pethoud) Jones, the former of whom was born in Grayson county, Virginia, of staunch Welsh lineage, and the latter of whom was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, where her parents settled in the early pioneer days. The parents of Mr. Jones continued their residence in Ohio until 1855, when they started for the west. After remaining six months in Platte county, Missouri, they continued their journey to Jefferson county, Kansas, where they remained until September 1st, 1857, when, with the primitive equipment of team and wagon, they set forth on the overland journey to Gage county, Nebraska, which at that time was on the veritable frontier. Their first dinner in this county was eaten while they were encamped on the banks of Blue river, and on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the birth of their son William R., of this review. Samuel Jones entered a pre-emption claim in what is now Midland township, Gage county, and here he eventually became the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of land, an appreciable part of which he brought under effective cultivation. In 1860, however, he went to Nuckolls county, where he remained about one year, during which he operated a pioneer ranch on the overland stage route. He then returned to his Gage county farm and here, save for a short interval during which he conducted a livery business in the city of Lincoln, he passed the residue of his life, his death having occurred in 1872, when he was but forty-six years of age. His widow survived him by more than a quarter of a century and



WILLIAM R. JONES

was a resident of Idaho, at the time of her death, in 1900, she having been one of the revered pioneer women of Gage county. Her father, John Pethoud was the first person to make settlement in what is now Midland township, this county, where he established his home in April, 1857, a number of his descendants being still residents of the county and further data concerning the family appearing in other articles of this publication.

William R. Jones was reared under the invigorating discipline of the pioneer farmstead and his educational advantages after coming to Gage county were limited to the primitive schools maintained by the early settlers. At the age of twenty years he took unto himself a wife, and finally they established their residence on a homestead which he obtained in Section 11, Midland township. He made good improvements on this farm and brought it into an excellent state of productiveness. In 1876 he sold this property and purchased land in Section 24 of the same township, where he eventually developed a fine landed estate of two hundred and twenty acres and where he successfully continued his operations as an agriculturist and as a breeder and grower of the better types of cattle until 1897, since which time he and his wife have maintained their residence in the city of Beatrice, their pleasant home being at 513 West Ella street. While on the farm Mr. Jones also gave special attention to the breeding of high-grade road horses, including those of standard breeding. For three years he also kept on his farm a well ordered dairy, from which he supplied milk to a representative list of patrons in Beatrice. He continues to hold possession of his fine farm property and in his retirement is far from inactive, as he gives much of his time and attention to the buying of poultry. Though he celebrated in 1917 his seventy-first birthday anniversary Mr. Jones has the bearing and vigor of a man twenty years his junior, and the passing years have failed to implant a single gray thread in his abundant head of hair. His reminiscences concerning the early pioneer days are most graphic and of surpassing historic interest. Apropos of this statement the following brief record is specially worthy of reproduction in this article:

"After the Indian massacre occurred on the Little Blue river Mr. Jones was among the first to witness the horrors of that awful scene and to aid in burying the unfortunate victims. As an old resident of the county he is most intimately acquainted with its history and no citizen has witnessed with greater satisfaction the gradual march of development and progress. He is interested in all matters pertaining to church, school and state, and has given earnest support to measures advanced for the general good of the community."

Mr. Jones has never wavered in his loyal allegiance to the Democratic party and he has been long and prominently affilliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, through active membership in all of its branches. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men. Though he has been liberal and progressive as a citizen Mr. Jones has not been greatly afflicted with ambition for public office, and his civic loyalty was the principal cause of his becoming a candidate for the office of county sheriff, to which he was triumphantly elected in 1888 and in which he continued to give admirable administration for a term of two years.

September 15, 1866, recorded the marriage of Mr. Jones to Miss Hester A. Henton, who was born near Des Moines, Iowa, November 23, 1846, that city having then been little more than a frontier military post. She is a daughter of the late James M. and Susan (Prim) Henton, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Illinois, and her parents were numbered among the earliest settlers of Polk county, Iowa. The father of Mrs. Henton erected and occupied the first house in Springfield, the capital of Illinois. In 1855 Mr. Henton came with his family to Nebraska and settled in Pawnee county, where he surveyed and defined the town of Table Rock. Both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Jones became the parents of ten children, and concerning the six now living the following brief record is available: Minnie L. is the wife of Ralph

Lee, of Lincoln, this state; Susan is the wife of John Graves, of Fort Milton, Colorado; Ruhama is the wife of John P. Vandel, of Bridgeport, Nebraska; Hester A. is the wife of O. E. Carney, of Omaha; Rebecca is the wife of Harry K. Davis, of Lawrence, this state; and Willie Ethel is the wife of B. R. Crone, of Beatrice.

WILLIAM L. COLLINS has been a resident of Gage county since 1885 and here has won for himself substantial prosperity through his effective association with the great and basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing. His excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres is situated in Section 31, Sherman township, and is equipped with good buildings and other improvements of permanent order, all of which represent the tangible results of his own efforts and enterprising policies. Mr. Collins is a scion of old and honored Southern ancestry, both his paternal and maternal forebears having been prosperous planters, his grandfather on the paternal side having been Mahlon Collins, who passed his entire life in Virginia, and his maternal grandfather, John Woodruff having lived throughout his entire life in North Carolina.

William L. Collins was born in Grayson county, Virginia, February 6, 1855, and is a son of John C. and Caroline (Woodruff) Collins, the former of whom was born in that same county, February 16, 1831, and the latter of whom was born in that part of Ashe county, North Carolina, that is now included in Alleghany county, the date of her nativity having been June 24, 1837, and her death having occurred February 14, 1913, her husband having survived her and his death having occurred November 7, 1915. Their marriage was solemnized in Ashe county and there Mr. Collins became a successful planter, both having remained residents of Virginia until the close of their lives. Of their three children the subject of this sketch is the eldest; Franklin P. is a successful agriculturist in Carroll county, Virginia; and Isaac R. came to Gage county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1917, he being now engaged in farming in the same township as is his brother. The mother was an earnest member of the Primitive Baptist church and was a woman of gentle and gracious personality. The father was a man of broad views, was the owner of a good farm property at the time of his death, and in politics he never wavered in allegiance to the Democratic party.

In the schools of the historic Old Dominion state William L. Collins gained his youthful education and there he continued his alliance with agricultural enterprise until 1883, when he came to Nebraska and located in Richardson county. There he remained until 1885, when he came to Gage county and purchased a farm of eighty acres, in Sherman township. Later he purchased an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which constitutes the area of his present attractive farm estate, the place having been entirely without improvements when it came into his possession. He had the most limited of financial resources when he came to this county and by his well ordered activities as an agriculturist and stock-growers he has won place among the prosperous citizens and representative farmers of Sherman township. He is a Democrat in politics, has served as a member of the school board of his district and also as road supervisor, and both he and his wife are active members of the Evangelical church. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

November 20, 1879, recorded the marriage of Mr. Collins to Miss Polly Andrews, who likewise is a native of Grayson county, Virginia, and who is a daughter of John and Catherine Andrews. Mr. and Mrs. Collins became the parents of four children: Porter is engaged in independent farm enterprise not far from his parents' home; Cora died at the age of twenty-one years; John is associated in the work and management of the home farm; and Lythia died at the age of five years.

JOHN R. MONTGOMERY is the owner of eighty acres of well improved land in Section 15, Holt township, where he leases an

additional tract of equal area, and where, in addition to raising the agriculutural products best adapted to this locality, he is giving special attention to the raising of fine Chester White swine, his breeding of this type of stock having been initiated in 1914.

Mr. Montgomery was born in Sullivan county, Missouri, September 9, 1859, and is the eldest in a family of five children; James is another of the prosperous farmers of Holt township; Dr. William P., an able physician and surgeon, is now actively identified with farm enterprise in Holt township; Caroline is deceased; and Maude is employed in one of the leading hospitals in the city of Lincoln.

John R. Montgomery is a son of Andrew L. and Mary (Beall) Montgomery, the former of whom was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 11, 1837, and the latter in the state of Illinois, in August, 1839. Andrew L. Montgomery and his wife were numbered among the territorial pioneers of Lancaster county, Nebraska, where they established their residence in 1864. Mr. Montgomery entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, near the present village of Hickman, and there he continued his activities as a pioneer farmer until 1870, when he came with his family to Gage county. He became the owner of a large landed estate in this county, where he and his wife still reside, and where he is still the owner of fully three hundred acres, the remainder of his land having been divided among his children. He is a son of John and Mary (Shatow) Montgomery, who were born respectively in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and who passed the closing years of their lives in Ohio. Andrew L. Montgomery and his wife now reside in the village of Pickrell and are honored pioneer citizens of Gage county.

John R. Montgomery was about four years old at the time of the family removal to Nebraska Territory and his early education was acquired in the pioneer schools of Lancaster and Gage counties. He early began to assist his father in the farm operations and since 1895 he has conducted independent operations on his present farm, eighty acres of which was given to him by his father in May, 1914.

On the 5th of January, 1887, Mr. Montgomery wedded Miss Celia Smith, who was born in Putnam county, Illinois, a daughter of Edward and Artie (Wardlaw) Smith, who now reside at Cortland, Gage county, Nebraska, the father having retired from the work of his trade, that of blacksmith. Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery have six children: Cecila is the wife of Fred Busboom, of Cozad, Dawson county, this state; Ralph is identified with farm enterprise in Holt township; Homer resides in the village of Pickrell; Edward remains at the parental home; Mildred is the wife of E. Rudder, of Highland township; and Irene is the youngest member of the parental home circle.

In politics Mr. Montgomery is staunchly aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party and he has been influential in community affairs. In 1908 he was elected a member of the county board of supervisors, in which position he served one term, besides which he served four years as clerk and treasurer of Holt township, his retirement from this dual office having occurred in 1917. He is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

THOMAS ACTON. — The life story of Thomas Acton is made specially interesting by reason of the fact that he came to the United States with scarcely a dollar in his possession but, after years of untiring diligence, has acquired more than an ordinary competence, not considering that he and his good wife have reared, given a good educational advantages to and instilled high ideals in: seven sons and four daughters, who are fast taking up their life work in their own homes, ready to enrich the communities in which they live.

Thomas Acton was born in Ontario, Canada, and is a son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Kidd) Acton, who were natives of the Emerald Isle and who in their early life come to Canada. Abraham Acton was a son of Frank Acton, who remained in Ireland all of his

life. He and his son Abraham were active members of the Orangemen, that body of Protestant Irishmen which had for its purpose the overthrow of the Catholic domination in the civic and religious life of the Emerald Isle. Abraham Acton and Elizabeth (Kidd) Acton were the parents of five children, two of whom are living — George, of Summerfield, Kansas, and Thomas, the subject of this review. Mrs. Elizabeth (Kidd) Acton passed away in 1844 and in 1849 Abraham Acton married the second time. Of this union seven children were born.

In 1864 Mr. Thomas Acton left Canada for the United States, and he chose for his home the thriving city of Burlington, Iowa. In Iowa he worked five years in logging camps, clearing the rich fertile soil for the farmer who would soon follow with his implements of agriculture. From 1869 to 1885 he operated a farm in Iowa, and he then removed with his family to Kansas, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Logan county.

In 1876, at Rockport, Missouri, culminated the romance of Thomas Acton and Letitia Patience — in their marriage and the joining of their lives "till death us do part." Sons and daughters came to them until eleven of them were gathered in the home, and concerning these children record is here offered: Gertrude is the wife of Albert H. Arneal, a farmer of Rawlins county, Kansas; George is a farmer by occupation; Winnie is the wife of D. D. Hannah, a hardware salesman, living at Hiawatha, Kansas; Thomas is farming in Gage county; Mabel is the wife of E. C. Lasher, engaged in the nursery business at Hutchins, Kansas; John remains on the farm with his father; Arthur and Robert likewise are at home; Nellie is a teacher in the Wymore schools; Fred is attending school at Lincoln, Nebraska; and Frank is at home with his parents. The mother of this interesting family of children was born in Canada in the year 1859.

In 1890 Mr. Acton came with his family to Island Grove township, Gage county, and purchased eighty acres of land — the nucleus around which so many additional acres have since been gathered. He is the owner of five hundred and forty acres of well improved land, the greater share of which is in a state of intensive cultivation. The home farm is improved with a commodious and modern house and the numerous other buildings which make a progressive farmer's place look like a small village.

Mr. Acton and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is independent in politics, preferring that the public official should be the man best fitted for the office, irrespective of party affiliations.

CYRUS P. JONES, who rents from his father's estate a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the southwest quarter of Section 21, Highland township, is one of the able and popular exponents of farm industry in his native county, is a member of the Gage County Fair Association and has been specially successful and prominent in the raising of pure-bred and registered Poland-China swine, in which conection it may be noted that he is a valued member of the Poland-China Association of Nodaway county. From his farm he has exhibited fine specimens of Poland-China swine at the Gage county fairs and also at the state fair in the city of Lincoln, his last exhibit having been made in 1912 and he having received many premiums, including first, second, and third prizes on his exhibits. In later years he has not made such displays of his fine stock, owing to the exigent demands made upon him in the management of his farm, but he continues as one of the county's extensive shippers of hogs, many having been shipped for breeding purposes into different states of the union.

Mr. Jones was born on the pioneer homestead of his father in Highland township, and the date of his nativity was August 17, 1877. To his father, the late George H. Jones, a special memoir is dedicated on other pages, so that further review of the family history is not here demanded. Mr. Jones early began to aid in the work of the home farm and in the meanwhile profited by the advantages afford-

ed in the district schools, after which he attended the high school at Cortland. In that village he thereafter clerked for a time in his father's general-merchandise store, but the vigorous life of the farm had greater appeal to him and after having been employed one year at farm work he rented land and engaged in farming in an independent way, in the meanwhile maintaining for the first year bachelor's hall on the farm. He has always taken much interest in fine live stock and as a grower of pure-bred Poland-China swine he has used marked discrimination in selection of breeding stock, so that his success has been very pronounced in this interesting department of farm enterprise. He is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, he having aided in the organization of the church of this denomination in his home precinct.

May 4, 1899, Mr. Jones wedded Miss Nettie Goodban, who was born in Highland township, June 23, 1875, a daughter of John S. Goodban, who is individually mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Jones was graduated in the Cortland high school and prior to her marriage was a teacher in a district school for one term. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have five children, all of whom remain at the parental homes — Ethel V., Milford E., Clarence R., Neva F., and Howard L.

JOHN ACKERMAN, who holds secure status as one of the representative farmers of Logan township, with an attractive homestead in Section 9, was born near Lebanon, Missouri, October 3, 1854, and is a son of Harmon and Franka (Keiser) Ackerman, who came from Germany to America in the '40s and established their home in Missouri. In that state the father rented land and engaged in farming, but a few years later he removed with his family to Adams county, Illinois, where he was similarly engaged at the time of the Civil war, in which he served one year as a member of an Illinois regiment of volunteer infantry. Of the five children of Harmon and Franka (Keiser) Ackerman the subject of this review is youngest of the three now living; Maggie is the wife of William Miller, a farmer near Sterling, Johnson county, Nebraska; and Albert is a prosperous farmer in the same county. The devoted mother of these children died at Lebanon, Missouri, and the father later contracted a second marriage, of the children of which six are living. Harmon Ackerman was a sincere member of the Lutheran church, as was also each of his wives, and in politics he was aligned with the Republican party. Through his own ability and efforts he achieved independence and prosperity and he was the owner of a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in Livingston county, Illinois, at the time of his death, which occurred in 1914, when he was eighty-eight years, seven months and seventeen days of age. He reclaimed and improved his farm and was one of the venerable and honored citizens of Livingston county at the time when he passed from the stage of life's mortal endeavors. He was a son of Frank Ackerman, who passed his entire life in Germany.

John Ackerman was reared on the home farm of his father and in his youth his educational advantages were very limited. He did not, in fact, attend school until he had attained to the age of nineteen years, but in the great school of experience he has largely overcome the handicap of earlier years. Mr. Ackerman continued his association with farm enterprise in Illinois until 1877, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased sixty-six acres of land. On this pioneer farm he erected a house and barn of modest type and finally he sold the property, for five hundred dollars. For the ensuing five years he farmed on land which he rented from Claus Zimmerman, and he then purchased, at eight dollars an acre, a tract of eighty acres in Logan township, this property being still owned by him. He purchased his present home place, for a consideration of thirty-two hundred dollars, and since that time he has expended fully seven thousand dollars in improvements of a permanent order.

In 1877 Mr. Ackerman wedded Miss Geska Schuster, who was born in Germany, a daugh-

ter of Mena Schuster, she having been eight years old when the family came to the United States and settled in Adams county, Illinois. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman the following brief record is entered: Frances is the wife of John Buhr, of Logan township; Mena is identified with farm activities on his father's property; Grace is the wife of Bruno J. Buhr, of Hooker township; Harmon is a resident of Hanover township; and Hannah and Geska remain at the parental home. Mr. Ackerman is an independent Republican in politics and he and his wife are active communicants of the Hanover Lutheran church.

FLOYD G. PLUCKNETT. — It is specially pleasing to accord in this volume recognition to Mr. Plucknett, for he is a native of Gage county and a scion of one of its honored and influential pioneer families, besides having distinct precedence as one of the progressive and substantial exponents of farm industry in Grant township, where he is the owner of a finely improved farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres, in Sections 28 and 29. It was on this farm that he was born, and the date of his nativity was April 6, 1891. He is a son of George A. and Olivia (Benjamin) Plucknett and a grandson of the late William Plucknett, who was a native of England and who became a resident of Gage county, Nebraska Territory, in 1861: here he accumulated and developed one of the largest and most valuable landed estates of the county and was an honored citizen who did much to further the civic and industrial progress and upbuilding of this favored section of the state. The subject of this review was but one year old at the time when his father was killed by accident, and his mother later became the wife of Michael Seidles, their home being now at Superior, Nuckolls county. Of the two children of the first marriage the one surviving is he whose name initiates this review, the other child, a daughter, having died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Seidles became the parents of four children, of whom three are living.

Floyd G. Plucknett was about six years old at the time of his mother's second marriage and he was reared principally on the farm of his stepfather, in Nuckolls countq, his early educational advantages having been those of the public schools and he having continued to assist his stepfather in the work and management of the farm in Nuckolls county until he had attained to the age of twenty years. For one year thereafter he farmed independently on land which he rented in Nuckolls county and upon reaching his legal majority he came into his heritage, in his present farm, an integral part of the original landed estate of his paternal grandfather. He forthwith assumed control with marked energy and progressiveness and his previous experience admirably fortified him for successful farm enterprise. In 1911 he improved his farm by the erection of his modern house, and in the following year he erected a large barn, the place being now one of the model farms of Grant township and being the stage of his vigorous and successful activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower, in which latter department he is giving special attention to the raising of pure-bred Poland-China swine. Returning to his native county in 1910, Mr. Plucknett is well upholding the prestige of a family name that has been signally prominent and honored in the annals of Gage county history. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife hold the faith of the Protestant Episcopal church, in which faith he was reared.

December 25, 1910, recorded the marriage of Mr. Plucknett to Miss Julia Rosling, who was born and reared in Nuckolls county, and who is a daughter of the late William T. and Ada (Sage) Rosling. By this marriage one child was born, on January 23, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Plucknett have an adopted daughter, Grace M., who completes the immediate family circle in the attractive and hospitable home. Mr. Plucknett takes loyal interest in community affairs and in the general well-being of his native county. While he has no ambition for public office he consented to accept the position of road overseer, of which office he is the incumbent at the time of this writing.

DICK OLTMANS has won for himself distinct independence and prosperity since coming to Gage county, more than thirty years ago, and he is now well established as one of the substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of Logan township, where he is the owner of an excellently improved farm estate of four hundred and eighty acres, his homestead being in Section 16.

Mr. Oltmans was born in the eastern part of Germany, July 27, 1867, and is a son of Diedrick and Elizabeth (Johnson) Oltmans, who, now venerable in years, still maintain their home in their native land, though it has on two occasions been their privilege and pleasure to visit the home of their son Dick since he established his residence in Gage county. Of their ten children only four are living, Heye, eldest of the number, remaining in Germany; Dick, of this review, being the next younger; Maggie being the wife of John Heffling, a farmer in Hanover township, this county; and Anton, remaining in Germany. The parents have been lifelong members of the Lutheran church. The subject of this review bears the full name of his grandfather, Dick Oltmans, who came from Germany to America many years ago and who passed the closing years of his life in the state of Illinois.

Dick Oltmans was in his youth afforded the advantages of the schools of his fatherland and was a vigorous lad of fourteen years when he came to the United States. In Logan county, Illinois, he found employment at farm work, and for some time he received compensation of only twenty-five cents a day. In that state he continued to be employed by the month as a farm hand until he came to Nebraska and established his home in Gage county, in 1886. He here purchased a team and for the first season used the same in breaking land for others. The succeeding season found him engaged in independent farming on rented land, though he continued to work for others at intervals, in breaking land, in order to provide for his needs. In 1895 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres and by strenuous industry and good management he eventually paid for this property. He next bought and paid for an additional tract, of eighty acres, and with increasing prosperity he continued to make judicious investments in excellent farm land in Logan township until he now has a valuable farm estate of four hundred and eighty acres, as previously noted. He has erected good buildings on his homestead and is one of the energetic and successful farmers of the county.

In 1892 Mr. Oltmans married Miss Lena Frerichs, daughter of L. W. Frerichs, of whom individual mention is made on other pages, and of this union have been born the following named children: Diedrick is married and is engaged in farming near the village of Pickrell; Lambert is farming near Adams, this county; Harmon is identified with farm enterprise near Pickrell; Marie is the wife of George Meints, of Hooker township; and Elizabeth, Ella, Wilhelm, Heye, Annie, and Anton remain at the parental home.

In politics Mr. Oltmans is a Democrat and he has served in various minor offices of local order. He and his wife are active communicants of the Hanover Lutheran church.

ISAAC R. CLAYTON. — The subject of this record is one of those who have reached the goal after years of toil, labor and anxiety and all the attendant incidents of a busy life and have now retired from active service.

Isaac Randolph Clayton is a native of Illinois, born at Trivoli, Peoria county, August 10, 1844. His parents were Ezekiel and Phoebe (Randolph) Clayton, the former of whom was born in New York city and the latter in Plainfield, New Jersey. In 1839 they drove overland with a team of horses and settled in Peoria county, Illinois. In 1868 they moved to Canton, Illinois, where they both passed away.

Young Clayton was reared on a farm in what was then a pioneer district in Illinois. He acquired a limited education in the district schools and early in life began to assist in the operation of the home farm. In February 1865, he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer In-

MR. AND MRS. ISAAC R. CLAYTON

fantry, with which he served one year in defense of the Union in the Civil war. Thereafter he was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Peoria and Stark counties, Illinois, until 1883, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Section 26 Sicily township. Not a furrow had been turned nor a stick in the way of improvement. He arrived in the month of March and in five days had erected a house and moved into it. He assiduously set about improving and cultivating this tract and as the years passed he prospered. In 1912 he retired to Wymore, — the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land.

October 10, 1866, Mr. Clayton married Miss Emma Littell, who was born in New York city, November 28, 1845, a daughter of Isaac F. and Addie (Gibson) Littell, natives of New Jersey and New York respectively. They became early settlers of Illinois where both passed away.

Following is a brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton: Abbie, is the wife of W. I. Reed, a farmer of Sicily township; Hattie is the wife of Frank E. James, of Greeley, Colorado; Freeman F. is operating the old farm; Phoebe is the wife of L. E. Kelley, an implement dealer at Wymore, Albert was killed in a runaway accident, and his widow, who was Miss Alice Stevenson, resides in Lincoln; she has two daughters, — May is superintendent of schools at Mullen, Nebraska and Mabel is principal of schools at Alliance, Nebraska; Charles, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton was killed by lightning, leaving a widow, who resides in Blue Springs with her daughter, the latter having been only ten days old when her father was killed. Mr. and Mrs. Clayton have twenty-five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In 1911 the people of Gage county, recognizing his ability, elected Mr. Clayton to represent them in the lower house of the state legislature. He served on the soldiers'-relief, finance and other committees. He strongly advocated in speech and ballot those measures he thought were for the good of the people and as firmly opposed those measures he considered wrong. He took a firm stand in opposition to the bill permitting Sunday baseball and has never regretted any vote that he has cast. While living on his farm he served fourteen years on the school board, ten years as justice of the peace, two years as county supervisor, and one term as township treasurer. Mr. Clayton is a firm believer in the doctrines of the Baptist church, of which he and his wife are members and in which he is serving as deacon. A stalwart champion of the cause of temperance, he has never taken a drink of alcoholic liquor nor played a game of cards. His sons and sons-in-laws all have the same record concerning these vices. Neither he nor his wife inherited a penny, and the success which has come to them is due entirely to their own perseverance and industry. They met with severe reverses during their early married life while living in Illinois and in Nebraska, and in the latter state they endured the hardships and privations incident to a pioneer country, but they met all obstacles unflinchingly, and, with that determination and ambition which assure success, theirs has been a good fight, crowned with victory. They occupy a beautiful home in Wymore, surrounded with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. Their happiest hours are when, once a year, a reunion of the family is held.

Mr. Clayton wears the little bronze button signifying membership in the Grand Army Republic and he maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades by membership in Coleman Post, No. 115, of Wymore. Thus we offer the life record of one who has measured up to the highest standard of manhood, and it would not be possible to find a more respected citizen then he or a more highly esteemed family than his.

GEORGE F. BURGER. — In Section 19, Clatonia township, George Frederick Burger is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, besides which he has a landed estate of four hundred and eighty acres in Clay county, Kansas, the latter property being improved with two distinct groups of farm

buildings and being under the direct management of his sons, John A. and Carl S. Relative to the family history adequate record is given in the sketch of George S. Burger, on other pages of this work, and representatives of the name have played a worthy part in the social and industrial development of Gage county, where the family home was established in the pioneer days.

George F. Burger was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 3, 1863, a son of John L. and Margaret M. (Rueter) Burger, and he was two years old at the time of the family immigration to America. He was reared and educated in the state of Illinois and was fourteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Gage county, Nebraska. He continued to assist in the work of the home farm until his marriage, in 1887, and thereafter he farmed on land rented from his father until 1890, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres near his present homestead in Clatonia township, his father having given him one hundred and twenty acres and he having purchased an additional one hundred and twenty acres. When he located on his present home farm the same had buildings representing an investment of about five hundred dollars, and since that time he has shown his progressiveness by making the best of permanent improvements, including the erection, in 1901, of a commodious and modern house of nine rooms, he having expended fully five thousand dollars in buildings and other improvements on the place, besides having shown equal progressiveness in the improving and developing of his farm property in Kansas, where he made his first investment in 1907. Mr. Burger has been recognized as a specially energetic and enterprising farmer and has given particular attention to the raising of high-grade swine, of which he ships an average of a carload each year.

Mr. Burger is independent in politics, and he and his wife are communicants of the Lutheran church. He is one of those vigorous men who have made full use of the advantages offered in connection with the development of the natural resources of Gage county, and is one of the substantial citizens of the county.

April 15, 1887, Mr. Burger wedded Miss Minnie Ulrich, who was born in Illinois, January 20, 1867, a daughter of Charles Ulrich, who became a pioneer of Gage county, other pages of this work giving interesting information concerning the Ulrich family. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Burger the eldest is Margaret, who is the wife of John Rehms, of Clatonia township; John A. and Carl S. have charge of their father's extensive farm property in Kansas, as previously noted, and they have an efficient coadjutor in the person of their younger brother Walter; Anna is the wife of August Hinke, of Saline county; and Herman and Edward remain at the parental home.

IRA D. BONEBRIGHT, who conducts a well equipped general merchandise store in the village of Cortland and is one of the representative merchants and citizens of this thriving town, was born in Putnam county, Missouri, January 17, 1878, a son of Joseph and Barbara (Stoneking) Bonebright. He was the fourth in a family of twelve children, the firstborn, Nevada, having died in childhood; John S. is a prosperous contractor and builder at Cortland; Henry C. served as a soldier in the Spanish-American war; Lillie is the wife of Bert J. Deming, of Cortland; Etta resides at Wichita, Kansas; Mattie resides in the city of Des Moines, Iowa; Zuna is the wife of Amos Larson, of Salt Lake City; William A. resides in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Anna, Garfield, and Charles are deceased.

Joseph Bonebright, who was born July 11, 1848, came with his family from Missouri to Gage county in 1883, and he established a draying business at Cortland. He was a substantial and progressive citizen, a Republican in politics, and here served in the office of constable. He assisted in the construction of the line of railroad through the village. He and his wife are now residents of Wichita, Kansas. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania and became pioneer settlers in Putnam county, Missouri, where they continued

to reside until their death, the father having been John Bonebright and the family name of the mother having been Roberts. The mother of the subject of this review was born at Macomb, McDonough county, Illinois, January 1, 1851.

Ira D. Bonebright was a lad of about five years at the time when the family home was established at Cortland, and here he was afforded the advantages of the public schools. From 1896 to 1911 he was associated with his father in the draying business and he then entered into partnership with John Bunte, with whom he has since been successfully engaged in the general merchandise business, each department of their well appointed establishment being well stocked and the trade of the firm being of substantial and representative order. In addition to his activities in this field of enterprise Mr. Bonebright is a stockholder in the Farmers' Lumber Company of Cortland and the Cortland Telephone Company. Liberal and loyal as a citizen, he is a supporter of the cause of the Republican party, he and his wife being members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he being affiliated with the Masonic and Eastern Star fraternities.

October 30, 1902, recorded the marriage of Mr. Bonebright to Miss Ida H. Bunte, who was born at Davis, Stephenson county, Illinois, a daughter of Henry and Minnie (Wendt) Bunte, who came to Gage county about 1887, Mr. Bunte having thereafter been a principal in the mercantile firm of Smith & Company, at Cortland, for twenty years: his wife is deceased and he now resides in the home of his son John, who is associated with Mr. Bonebright in business, as previously noted, the firm name being Bonebright & Bunte. Mr. and Mrs. Bonebright have four children — John A., Norris E., Marvin A., and Carl P.

GEORGE FOLKERTS is one of a very appreciable contingent of Gage county citizens who claim the fair district of Ost Friesland, province of Hanover, Germany, as the place of their nativity, he having there been born on the 18th day of April, 1874, a son of Cobus and Kate Folkerts, who there passed their entire lives. Mr. Folkerts was reared and educated in his native land and was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States and found employment at farm work, in Champaign county, Illinois, as did he later in Kossuth county, Iowa. From the Hawkeye state he came to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1895, and after having been for some time employed as a farm hand he engaged in independent farm enterprise on rented land. After the lapse of three years he purchased his present farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 26, Logan township, and he showed his energy and progressiveness by putting the buildings on the place into good order, the same having been permitted to become somewhat dilapidated. In addition to using this now well improved property in connection with his well ordered agricultural and live-stock enterprise Mr. Folkerts also uses a half section of land, in Logan township, which he holds under Scully lease. He owns a modern threshing outfit and operates the machine in the threshing of his own grain and that of neighboring farmers who assist him at threshing time. The enterprising spirit and good judgment of Mr. Folkerts were shown distinctly in his providing of this independent threshing machine, as he never has to wait for service on the part of another and is thus able to thresh his grain at the most opportune time and to get the full returns from the crop.

On September 19, 1898, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Folkerts to Miss Annie Fossler, a native of Nemaha county, this state, and a daughter of John Fossler, of whom mention is made on other pages. The four children of this union are Katie, John, Cobus, and Herman.

Not only in his personal affairs is Mr. Folkerts alert and progressive, but also in his attitude as a citizen, and he gives his political support to the Democratic party. He commands unqualified esteem and has served as justice of the peace, as has he also as school director of his district. His substantial suc-

cess represents the direct results of his own well directed endeavors and he is one of the representative farmers and citizens of Logan township.

EDWARD G. CROOK, whose finely managed homestead farm is situated in Section 23, Filley township, was born in Franklin county, Virginia, on the 5th of February, 1871, and is a son of Robert T. and Elizabeth (Fisher) Crook, both likewise natives of the historic Old Dominion state. The mother died in Kansas, at the age of sixty-three years, and the father maintains his home in Gove county, that state, he having celebrated in 1918 the seventy-second anniversary of his birth. The parents came to Nebraska in 1889 and continued their residence in Gage county until 1894, and the following two years they passed at Paola, Kansas, after which they returned to Gage county. In 1908 Robert T. Crook established his residence in Gove county, Kansas, where he is the owner of an excellent farm and where he is now living virtually retired. His father, Edwin Crook, a prosperous planter in Virginia, attained to the patriarchal age of ninety-six years. Mr. Crook has never wavered in his allegiance to the Democratic party and is an earnest member of the Dunkard church, as was also his wife. Of their nine children all are living except one.

Edward G. Crook acquired his youthful education in the public schools of Virginia and was a youth of eighteen years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Nebraska. Upon attaining to his legal majority he found employment at farm work, by the month, and he was thus engaged for a period of five years. For seven years thereafter he farmed on rented land in Gage county and he then purchased a portion of his present farm estate, of four hundred and eighty acres, which he has developed into one of the fine farm properties of Filley township and upon which he has erected various buildings of model order.

In 1897 Mr. Crook wedded Miss Minnie Erickson, a daughter of Peter Erickson, who established his residence in Gage county in 1883 and whose death here occurred in 1900, he having become one of the prosperous farmers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Crook have five children, all of whom remain at the parental home — George, Roy, Edward, Mabel, and Ever.

Mr. Crook is a Democrat in politics, is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and his wife is a member of the Christian church. He has through his own efforts and ability achieved substantial success, as he had naught of financial reinforcement when he initiated his independent career and assumed an appreciable indebtedness when he made the purchase of his original farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the nucleus of his present fine landed estate. As an agriculturist and stock-grower he employs progressive ideas and policies and in the live-stock department of his farm enterprise he gives special attention to the raising of Poland-China swine of the best type.

LEONARD GRIESER is a representative of that fine German element of citizenship that has contributed much to the social and material development and progress of Gage county and is one of the substantial farmers of Highland township, his estate comprising five hundred and fifty acres and his home place being in Section 11, besides which he is the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Lancaster county.

Mr. Grieser was born in the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, October 28, 1849, a son of Frederick and Mary (Kline) Grieser, of whose four children he is the eldest, the second being Mrs. Margaret Richards, of Christian county, Illinois, where also resides the younger sister, Mrs. Catherine Neihard, John, the youngest of the children, having died in childhood. Frederick Grieser was born November 20, 1823, and he was a resident of Cortland, Gage county, at the time of his death, February 26, 1904. In 1852 he immigrated with his family to the United States and established his home in Franklin county, Missouri, where he became a prosperous

farmer and where he continued his residence until 1884, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he lived practically retired until his death, their son Leonard, of this review, having leased one acre of ground from his farm as a home for his parents, and the site of their house being now marked by a fine evergreen tree, which constitutes a gracious memorial to them. Mrs. Grieser was born March 5, 1818, and preceded her husband to eternal rest by only a few months, her death having occurred in November, 1903; both were earnest communicants of the Lutheran church and exemplified their Christian faith in their daily lives.

Leonard Grieser was not yet three years old at the time of the family immigration to America and he was reared to manhood on the old homestead farm in Missouri, his educational advantages having been those of the common schools of the locality and period. He was but twelve years old at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war but before the close of the great conflict he had opportunity of manifesting his youthful loyalty to the Union, for in November, 1864, at Pacific, Missouri, he enlisted in Company H, Fifty-fourth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, with which he participated in a number of skirmishes and in suppressing the encroachments of the historic "bushwhackers" who infested Missouri. Mr. Grieser was one of the youngest soldiers in his company, and on one occasion while he was on picket duty an officer asked him if he could shoot. The youth replied by suggesting that the officer move to a point two hundred yards distant and he would show him his adeptness. The challenge was not accepted, for the officer realized that, like the average Missourian of the day, the young soldier was certain to be a good marksman. After the close of the war Mr. Grieser served a few months as locomotive fireman on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, and he recalls that his duties were arduous, as wood was still used as fuel in the engines. He did not long deny allegiance to farm industry, however, and from 1868 until 1877 he was engaged in farming in Christian county, Illinois. In the latter year he numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county, Nebraska, his original farm, a part of his present landed estate in Highland township, having comprised one hundred and sixty acres and the locality having been practically an untrammeled prairie, with no trees and with no settlement on the site of the present thriving village of Cortland, the town site of which is partially on the farm of Mr. Grieser, who was prominently identified with the founding of the village, worked zealously to compass this end and contributed ten acres as a part of the site of the embryonic village. Industry and good management have brought to him large and well earned prosperity, and he did his full share in furthering the civic and industrial development of Highland township, endured the trials and responsibilities of pioneer life and has continued as one of the substantial agriculturists and stock-growers of the county, besides which he has for many years given special attention to the drilling of wells, with a record of having drilled a greater number than any other one man in Nebraska. Though he has now retired from active labor in connection with farm operations he still continues his enterprise as a well driller, and has been identified with the same for fully thirty-five years.

In leaving Illinois for the west Mr. Grieser and his wife set forth to establish a home in Texas, and they made the long overland journey with a team and a covered wagon. En route they passed through Gage county and its judicial center, the town of Beatrice, being much impressed with the attractions and advantages of this section of Nebraska. Upon their arrival in Texas they were discouraged with the outlook and reverted with appreciation to the conditions in Gage county, with the result that they soon started forth with their team and wagon with Gage county as their destination, their entire journeying having covered a period of six months and their arrival in Gage county on the return trip having occurred in March. Mr. Grieser recalls many interesting incidents relative to the long and weary overland journey made under

primitive frontier conditions. Many nights while en route he sat up with his gun at hand, to guard his horses from attack by wolves, especially in Indian Territory. His first eighty acres of land in Gage county was purchased from the railroad company, at the rate of six dollars an acre, and of the great changes that have since been wrought an idea is conveyed in the fact that in later years he has paid as much as one hundred and thirty-seven and one-half dollars an acre for some of the land now owned by him in Highland township. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, he has served as clerk and assessor of Highland township and was for twenty-five years a member of the school board of District No. 55. At Cortland he is affiliated with the lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, in which he has passed the various official chairs, and in the city of Beatrice he is affiliated with Rawlings Post, No. 36, Grand Army of the Republic.

October 28, 1874, recorded the marriage of Mr. Grieser to Miss Kate Kerr, who has proved his devoted companion and helpmeet during the intervening period of nearly half a century. Mrs. Grieser was born in Christian county, Illinois, April 7, 1859, her parents, John and Elizabeth (Hopper) Kerr, natives of Kentucky, having been pioneers of Illinois, where they remained until their death, Mrs. Greiser being the younger of their two children and the elder, Cassius, having been a resident of Pana, Illinois, at the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Grieser have a fine family of six sons: Albert is one of the successful farmers of Highland township, where he owns eighty acres in Section 24; Oscar likewise is a progressive farmer of the same township, as are also Ernest and Harry, the former of whom has active charge of the old home farm; Ralph is identified with farm enterprise in Lancaster county; and Frank is similarly engaged in Highland township. All of the sons received good educational advantages and all but two are farming land owned by their father.

Mr. Grieser is a substantial stockholder of the Bank of Cortland, of which he is vice-president and in the same village he is a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator & Grain Company. In a reminiscent way it may be stated that Mr. Grieser's first house on his Gage county farm was a little frame building only ten by fourteen feet in dimensions, and for some time no floor was provided except the earth. In the passing years he has made excellent improvements on all of his farms and has been progressive and energetic in his activities as an agriculturist and stock-grower. In the early days he hauled his farm produce to Firth, Lancaster county, a distance of eight miles, and at one time he had no available money, so that he was compelled to become indebted to the owner of one of the mercantile establishments at Firth in the sum of sixteen dollars, which covered the purchase of food supplies that lasted the family during an entire summer, within which only twenty-five cents' worth of sugar was used in the home. Meat for the larder was supplied principally by the shooting of prairie chickens, which were plentiful along the roads and in the fields. Mr. Grieser frequently staked out his cows on the site of the present village of Cortland and at daylight he often stood with gun in hand before his pioneer house to protect the cows and calves from attack by wolves. He and his wife, in short, lived up to the full tension of pioneer life and it has been theirs to receive in later years gracious rewards for their earnest and honorable labors in the past.

LEWIS H. LAFLIN. — There are few men living in our midst to-day who were on Gage county earlier than was Lewis H. Laflin. He has remained for sixty-one years on the farm upon which he now resides, in Johnson county. He came to this part of the country in May, 1857, — a full decade before Nebraska was admitted to statehood. These were the days when the Indian and the buffalo was still supreme upon the prairies, and when few white men dared to push the frontier line farther west.

One of the resolute and valiant pioneers of Gage and Johnson counties, Nebraska, was the mother of Lewis H. Laflin. This noble woman

came to this county in 1857. She was the widow of Parley Laflin, who was born near Rochester, New York, in 1799. Parley Laflin followed contracting and the lumber and mill business in the state of New York for many years. At one time he was employed on the construction of the old Erie canal. Finally he removed with his family to Illinois, and as a pioneer of that state he built his log cabin in the clearing made for the purpose, after which he turned his attention to tilling the soil. Mr. Laflin bought and sold cattle on a large scale. He frequently walked the distance of one hundred and fifty miles from his home in Rock Island county, Illinois, to Chicago, driving his cattle ahead of him to the market. This was before Chicago had any stock yards to accommodate the incoming cattle. Mr. Laflin's death occurred in 1849. He and his devoted wife became the parents of four children, — Catherine E., George P., Lewis H., and Joseph K. George P. was a resident of Oklahoma at the time of his death, in 1905.

In 1857, several years after her husband's death, Mrs. Laflin came with her children to Nebraska Territory. Here she entered a preemption claim, and the same now lies within the borders of Johnson county. ' She also owned land in Gage county, and the same is now a portion of the city of Beatrice, known as Croppey's Addition. For nearly twenty years this plucky woman labored to win her livelihood from the wild and unbroken prairies, and year by year she brought more of the land to productiveness. Her death occurred in 1886, in Johnson county.

Lewis H. Laflin was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, August 21, 1842. He received the educational advantages the locality and period afforded, and these were meagre, as there were very few schools established. He was fifteen years old upon his arrival in Nebraska and was just the right age to help his brave and determined mother. In 1860 he was freighting across the plains with an ox team, his route being from Brownville, Nebraska, to Julesburg, Colorado. He was interrupted in his work by his responding to the call of patriotism when the Civil war menaced the integrity of the nation. In 1862 he enlisted in Company I, First Nebraska Volunteers, under Colonel Robert R. Livingston. This company was engaged in a number of battles. In August, 1864, Mr. Laflin was captured by the Confederate General Shelby, at Grand Prairie, Arkansas. He was held as a prisoner of war for five months, and then, with other Union soldiers, was exchanged. Thereafter he continued in his country's service until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged October 24, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, after having served three years and eighteen days. After the surrender of Generals Lee and Johnston, Mr. Laflin was in a number of skirmishes with the Indians. He returned to his home in Johnson county, where he farmed, besides which he continued his work of freighting across the plains. Oxen were used in the summer work and horses in the winter.

November 1, 1866, Mr. Laflin married Miss America K. Scott, who was born August 10, 1846 in Anderson county, Kentucky. Her parents were Charles and Elizabeth Jane Scott, and they were the parents of six other children, — John R, and James G. are deceased; Elmer H., resides at Bruce, Wisconsin; Catherine E., the wife of E. S. Carnes, is deceased; Margaret E. is deceased; and Elizabeth is the wife of Riley Antle, of Nebraska City, Nebraska. Mrs. Laflin spent many happy years with her husband and family, devoting all of her time to their care and comfort. Her death occurred on the 5th day of July, 1905. She was the mother of ten children, five of whom survive her: Edith is the wife of D. M. Lovett, of Johnson county; Catherine remains at home with her father; Guy F. resides in Johnson county; Clay lives in Gage county, and E. B., lives at Crab Orchard, Johnson county.

Lewis H. Laflin bore his full share of the hardships and labors incidental to pioneer life in southeastern Nebraska and pressed steadily forward toward the goal of worthy prosperity. To the original farm he added gradually, as his resources and opportunities justified, and he is to-day the owner of a valuable landed

Lewis H. Loflin

estate, — one hundred and sixty acres in Gage county and four hundred and eighty acres in Johnson county.

Mr. Laflin has at all times shown himself loyal and public-spirited as a citizen and he gives his allegiance to the Republican party. He has been influential in community affairs, served six years as a member of the official administrative board of Johnson county, and in 1873 he was elected representative of his constitutency in the lower house of the Nebraska legislature, in which he made a characteristically excellent record of service. He is affiliated with Lodge No. 175, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, at Filley, and he has been for years an earnest and faithful member of the Baptist church.

JOHN T. DORN has effectively proved his energy and resourcefulness in connection with farm industry in Gage county and is the owner of a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, in Section 13, Logan township. Mr. Dorn was born in Adams county, Illinois, September 16, 1864, and is a son of Thomas H. and Ock Johanna (Heren) Dorn, both natives of Friesland, province of Hanover, Germany, where their marriage was solemnized. Upon coming to America the parents remained for a time in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and they then removed to Illinois, where the father engaged in farm enterprise and threshing for a number of years. For a time thereafter he conducted a small general store in a rural district and also devoted his attention to the reclaiming of a farm in Brown county, Illinois. He eventually became the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the county mentioned, and in 1882 he came to Nebraska and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Gage county, the only improvements on the place having been a little log house and a straw barn. He developed the farm and his success was such that he and his devoted wife passed the closing years of their lives in well earned peace and prosperity. Of their ten children six are living: Herman is a resident of Franklin county, this state; John T., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Thomas is a farmer in Logan township, Gage county; Jerusha is the wife of William Frerichs, of Franklin county; George is engaged in farm enterprise in Filley township; Henry is a farmer in Franklin county. The parents were zealous members of the Lutheran church and the father was a Republican in his political adherency.

John T. Dorn acquired his early education in the public schools of Illinois and Nebraska and has been from his youth continuously associated with farm industry. For three years he farmed on land which he rented near Sterling, Johnson county, and he next rented a farm owned by Claus Zimmerman, in Logan township, Gage county. With but limited capital he showed his self-reliance by buying, largely on credit, a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, of Julius Barnard, and after seeing his way clear toward the goal of independence he added to his farm property by purchasing of Charles Hughes a tract of eighty acres. He has made excellent improvements on his farm, including the erection of a modern house, barn and other buildings, and he has shown marked discrimination in the directing of the various departments of his farm enterprise. He raises good grades of cattle and swine and in the season of 1917 he devoted two hundred acres of his land to corn. His political support is given to the Republican party and he and his wife are active communicants of the Hanover Lutheran church.

In the year 1888 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Dorn to Miss Tena Agena, who was born in the state of Illinois and who is a daughter of Gade and Margaret (Ackerman) Agena, natives of Germany. Mr. Agena was a child of nine years when he accompanied his parents on their immigration to America and he was reared and educated in Illinois. His wife was five years old when her parents came to the United States. In 1876 Mr. Agena came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county, where he rented a small farm the first year. Later he removed to Sterling, Johnson county, where he passed the remainder of his life. Mr. and

Mrs. Dorn have eight children: Hanna is the wife of Ufka Harms, of Filley township; Margaret is the wife of Jerry Wallman, of Filley township; Thomas, who married Miss Etta Heits, is a farmer in Logan township; and Gade J., Lena, Frances Emma, Grace Lottie, and John remain at the parental home.

JOHN L. BURGER — This venerable and honored pioneer citizen is now living virtually retired on the old homestead farm which has been his place of abode for forty years and which is one of the fine farm properties of Clatonia township. He reclaimed his land from the virgin prairie brought to bear dauntless energy and determination and in furthering his own advancement and prosperity he contributed his full share to the social and material development and upbuilding of the county. A sterling citizen who can look back upon many years of earnest and productive industry, he is specially entitled to recognition in this history.

John L. Burger was born in the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, on the 24th of September, 1836, was reared and educated in his native land, where his marriage was solemnized and where was born the first of his five children.

In 1865 Mr. Burger immigrated with his family to the United States and for the ensuing twelve years he was engaged in farming in the state of Illinois. In 1877 he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, where, at the rate of ten dollars an acre, he purchased the farm now owned and operated by his son Leonard. No improvements had been made on the place and he erected as the family domicile a frame house of one story, twenty-six feet square. He broke the prairie soil and with the successive years made each count in achievement and increasing prosperity. He made good improvements of a permanent order, including the erection of the present commodious house in which he remains with his son Leonard and the latter's family, and he had the satisfaction of reclaiming and developing one of the valuable farm properties of Clatonia township. In 1897 he abated his more strenuous activities and in the gracious evening of a long and worthy life he is living virtually retired on his old homestead place. He assisted in the organization of the German Lutheran church at Clatonia, and is still one of the revered and active communicants of the same, his wife likewise having been zealous in church work.

In Bavaria, Germany, was solemnized the marriage of Mr Burger to Miss Barbara Reuter, who was there born on the 24th of October, 1837, and their devoted companionship was sundered only when the loved wife and mother passed to eternal rest, her death having occurred September 8, 1907. Of the five children the eldest is Frederick, who is one of the substantial farmers of Clatonia township and who is the only one of the children born prior to the family immigration to the United States; George S. is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; John and Leonard are prosperous farmers of Clatonia township; and Margaret is the wife of H. Luetkemier, a retired farmer of that township.

WESLEY D. STEINMEYER. — One of the progressive farmers of the younger generation in his native county, Mr. Steinmeyer is giving his attention most vigorously to the operation of a farm of one hundred acres, in Grant township, and of the tract he rents eighty acres from his father, Frederick Steinmeyer, who is an honored pioneer citizen of the county, and who is individually mentioned in this publication, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in this article.

On the old homestead farm of his father, one mile south of Clatonia and in the township of the same name, Wesley D. Steinmeyer was born November 19, 1889, and after having profited by the advantages of the district schools he furthered his intellectual discipline by attending the high school in the village of Clatonia. He has from his boyhood been associated with the farm industry of his father and after his marriage he rented from his father eighty acres in Section 3 Grant town-

ship, besides which he utilizes an additional twenty acres which he rents from other persons. He keeps in conformity with the best modern and scientific policies in the various departments of farm enterprise and in this connection and as a loyal citizen he is fully upholding the prestige of a name that has been signally prominent and honored in the annals of Gage county history. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he and his wife hold membership in the German Methodist church.

October 2, 1912, recorded the marriage of Mr. Steinmeyer to Miss Mary Anna Oltmans, the fourth in order of birth of the seven children of Lubbo and Mary (Cieglowsky) Oltmans, who now reside in the state of Colorado. Mrs. Steinmeyer was born at Hartsburg, Illinois, and in 1900 accompanied her parents, who are natives of Germany, on their removal to Nebraska, the family home being established on a farm in Lancaster county. Later Mr. Oltmans removed with his family to Wallace, Lincoln county, and in 1906 the family established a home in Colorado, where the parents have since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeyer have one child, Glenn Wesley, who was born June 20, 1917.

WILLIAM E. ROBBINS, who is now secretary of the Farmers' Grain, Lumber & Coal Company, which operates the large and well equipped grain elevator at Cortland and controls a substantial and important business in the handling of grain, coal, and lumber, is consistently to be designated as one of the most progressive exponents of agricultural and livestock enterprise in Gage county as well as one of the influential and public-spirited citizens of this favored section of the state, he having represented Gage county as a member of the Nebraska legislature. He is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Highland township, this fine estate comprising the west half of Section 27 and being eligibly situated fourteen miles north of Beatrice; four and one-half miles southwest of Cortland; and six and one-half miles east of Clatonia.

Mr. Robbins was born near Hastings, Mills county, Iowa, November 18, 1869, and is a son of Henry C. and Mary J. (Barrett) Robbins, of whose four children he is the eldest; Joseph H., who now resides in Los Angeles, California, is the owner of the remaining half of Section 27, Highland township, Gage county, this entire section having been purchased by the honored father about thirty years ago; and Ralph E. and Frank A. still reside at Hastings, Iowa, as do also the venerable parents, who are numbered among the honored pioneer citizens of that section of the Hawkeye state.

Henry C. Robbins, a scion of a sterling Scotch family that sent representatives to America many generations ago, was born at Nelsonville, Ohio, November 9, 1845, and he there became a prosperous miller and merchant. When the Civil war was precipitated he responded to President Lincoln's first call, by enlisting, in 1861, in Company A, Ninety-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served during virtually the entire course of the war, took part in many important battles, besides innumerable engagements of minor order, and was with Sherman on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea. After the close of the war he numbered himself among the pioneers of Mills county, Iowa, and he achieved remarkable success in connection with his well ordered industrial and business activities in that state, where he accumulated a large amount of valuable land. His mature judgment led him also to make investments in land in Colorado and Nebraska, and at the present time he is still the owner of one thousand acres — in Iowa and Colorado. He has been one of the most progressive, liberal, and influential citizens of Mills county, Iowa, where he and his wife still reside on their fine old homestead farm, though he is now living virtually retired. Mrs. Robbins was born June 1, 1852, in Iowa, where her parents were very early settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are zealous members of the Presbyterian church and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

On the old homestead farm which was the place of his nativity William E. Robbins was

reared to adult age, and after completing the curriculum of the public schools he attended the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, and also Tabor College, at Tabor, that state. In 1891 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where, as previously intimated, his father had become the owner of the entire area of Section 27, Highland township. Locating on this land Mr. Robbins eventually received through inheritance the west half of the section, and it may consistently be said that this he has developed into one of the finest farm estates in this section of Nebraska. In 1908 he erected on his farm a thoroughly modern house and barn, the house being of attractive architectural design and having nine rooms, the same being equipped with a system which supplies hot and cold running water throughout the building and also with its independent gas-lighting plant. On the place Mr. Robbins has made many other noteworthy improvements of permanent order, including the setting out of both fruit and ornamental trees, and the farm is given over to scientific agriculture of diversified order and to the raising of the best types of live stock, including short-horn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Mr. Robbins is a director of the Bank of Cortland, besides being one of the principal stockholders of the Farmers' Grain, Lumber & Coal Company, of Cortland, of which he is secretary.

On the 22d of December, 1891, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Robbins to Miss Nannie Norton, who was born on a farm near Malvern, Mills county, Iowa, a daughter of Horace A. and Delilah (Tubbs) Norton, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio. Mrs. Robbins and her twin brother, William, were born March 6, 1868, the fifth in order of birth in a family of twelve children, of whom eight are living. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins have reared two children — a son and daughter — William Jean, and Lena.

In a generic way Mr. Robbins is a staunch advocate of the principles of the Republican party, but in local affairs, where no specific issues are involved, he is not constrained by strict partisan lines. He served three terms as clerk of Highland township and in the sessions of 1903 and 1905 he represented Gage county in the state legislature. He proved an active and discriminating legislator, introduced and championed a number of important bills, one of which, as enacted, has proved of great benefit to the citizens of Gage county, through the reducing of the expense of administering the various departments of county and township government and thus bringing a reduction also in the general taxes. It was largely through his determined and able efforts that the legislature enacted what is known as the Ramsey bill, which compels the railroad companies traversing Nebraska to give on their lines sites for grain elevators wherever there is a legitimate demand for the same. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are active members of the Congregational church of Highland and he is a member of its board of trustees. They are popular leaders in the best social activities of the community and delight in extending the hospitality of their beautiful home to their host of friends.

DANIEL NICEWONGER, a retired farmer and merchant residing in the village of Pickrell, is one of the substantial and honored citizens well worthy of special recognition in this history, besides which he has the distinction of being a member of one of the well known pioneer families of Gage county. He was born in Ogle county, Illinois, October 27, 1866, a son of Jacob and Susannah (Mock) Nicewonger, and is the youngest in a family of five children; Alexander was a resident of Nebraska at the time of his death and is survived by five children; Mary is the widow of Zachariah French and remains in Ogle county, Illinois, she having become the mother of six children, of whom four are living; Jennie resides in the city of Omaha, is the wife of Theodore Wakenight and of her nine children seven are living; William H. and his family reside in Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he is a prosperous farmer, and he has two children.

Jacob Nicewonger was born in Bedford

county, Pennsylvania, September 1, 1827, and was one of the venerable pioneer citizens of Gage county, Nebraska, at the time of his death, June 3, 1900. His wife, who was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, August 24, 1832, died March 8, 1893, she having been a Dunkard in her religious faith and a member of a family that was founded in America in the early colonial period of our national history. Jacob Nicewonger removed from the old Keystone state to Illinois and engaged in farming in Ogle county. There he remained until 1873, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, making the overland trip with team and covered wagon, and in numbering himself among the pioneer farmers of the county he purchased eighty acres of school land two miles southeast of the present village of Pickrell. He reclaimed and improved this farm, in Holt township, and in later years he purchased an additional eighty acres. About fifteen years prior to his death he retired from the active labors that had long been his portion and he passed the closing years of his life in the village of Pickrell.

Daniel Nicewonger was about seven years old at the time of the family removal to Gage county, where he was reared on the pioneer farm and profited by the advantages offered in the district schools of Holt township. He continued to assist in the work and management of the home farm until after he had attained to his legal majority and he then began farm operations in an independent way. He continued as one of the successful exponents of farm industry in Holt township until 1891, when he became associated with his brother William H. in establishing a general merchandise business at Pickrell. The brothers built up a prosperous enterprise and continued their partnership about five years. Daniel Nicewonger then purchased his brother's interest, after which he individually continued the business until 1901, when he sold the same. He has since lived virtually retired at Pickrell. He is a stockholder in the Dempster Manufacturing Company. In 1905 he purchased eighty acres of land in Section 28, Holt township, and this property, for which he paid fifty-five hundred dollars, he sold in 1916, for a consideration of ten thousand dollars. He is the owner of two business buildings at Pickrell, as well as of his fine residence property in this village, where he is honored as a loyal and public-spirited citizen and where he has served for the past four years as a member of the village board of trustees. He is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are active members of the United Brethren church, Mrs. Nicewonger being also a member of the war-time organization of the Red Cross in the city of Beatrice.

April 12, 1893, Mr. Nicewonger wedded Miss Alta Robinson, who was born in Piatt county, Illinois, a daughter of Isaac and Isabel (Watson) Robinson, natives respectively of Ohio and Illinois. From Illinois Mr. and Mrs. Robinson removed to Missouri and from the latter state they came to Gage county in 1891, establishing their home at Pickrell, Mr. Robinson having been about seventy-four years of age at the time of his death and his venerable widow being now a resident of the city of Beatrice. Of their three children Mrs. Nicewonger was the second in order of birth; Ernest is a resident of northwestern Canada and Carl is engaged in the teaming business at Beatrice. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nicewonger, but they greatly enjoy extending the hospitality of their pleasant home to the young folk of the community, as well as to their many friends of their own generation.

LEWIS M. WARFORD. — In attempting to preserve the life records of the men of Gage county who have contributed to the welfare of the community in which they lived, mention should be made of Lewis M. Warford. In his passing from earthly activities, on the 1st of May, 1908, his family lost a loving husband and father and his neighbors a loyal citizen and good friend.

Mr. Warford was born near Toledo, Ohio, October 8, 1849, and was a boy when his parents removed to Red Oak, Iowa. Here he was reared on a farm and attended the public schools. He engaged in farming pursuits and

MR. AND MRS. LEWIS M. WARFORD

as a youth went to Andrew county, Missouri, where he remained until 1885, when he came to Gage county. In 1892 he purchased land in Section 10, Rockford township, which was his home until his death.

Mr. Warford was united in marriage, August 20, 1868, to Miss Sarah E. Dobbs, a daughter of Russell L. and Cynthia (Hurst) Dobbs. Mrs. Warford was born in Andrew county, Missouri, May 22, 1851, and is a cousin of Hugh J. Dobbs, the author of this history of Gage county.

Mr. and Mrs. Warford became the parents of six children: Clarence T. of Curtis, Nebraska; Sylvester P. of Lincoln, Nebraska; Fletcher L., of Chappell, this state; May, the wife of LeRoy Brugh, of Midland township; Eunice, the wife of Milo Brugh, of Beatrice; and one who died in infancy.

Mrs. Sarah E. (Dobbs) Warford still resides on the home farm in Rockford township and owns also a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Cheyenne county, Kansas. She has long been an earnest member of the Christian church, and still retains affiliation with the church of this denomination in Andrew county, Missouri, the place of her birth. Her husband was a Republican in politics.

BENJAMIN C. ALBERT. — Farm industry in Gage county has many successful exponents who can claim the county as the place of their nativity, and of this number Benjamin C. Albert is one. He is giving his energetic and effective activities to the management of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he rents from his father, in Clatonia township, and on other pages of this volume is given an interesting review of the career of his father, Henry Albert, so that a repetition of the family data is not demanded in this connection.

Mr. Albert was born on the old homestead farm, in Clatonia township, August 16, 1880, and after having duly profited by the advantages of the public schools of the locality he completed a course in the Beatrice Business College, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1901. For one year thereafter he held the position of bookkeeper in the office of the Duluth Van & Transfer Company, in the city of Duluth, Minnesota, but his absence did not cause him to abate his appreciation of the attractions and advantages of his native state and county, as evidenced in his having returned to Gage county in 1903 and having initiated independent enterprise as an agriculturist and stock-grower on his present farm. His success offers the best voucher for his ability and progressive policies in connection with farm enterprise and in his home county his circle of friends is limited only by that of his acquaintances. He is one of the stockholders in the farmers' co-operative grain elevator at Clatonia, he is independent in politics, and he is known as a liberal and public-spirited citizen.

On the 11th of October, 1909, Mr. Albert wedded Miss Leona Gielday, of Lawton, Oklahoma. She was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, and is a daughter of Joseph and Irene (Rutherford) Gielday, who were born in Germany, Mr. Gielday having come to Nebraska and having thereafter served a number of years as a locomotive engineer on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. He filed entry on a timber claim in Red Willow county, this state, and there he died as the result of injuries received while in railway service, his widow being now a resident of Torrington, Laramie county, Wyoming. Mr. and Mrs. Albert have two children — Donald Henry and Morris Byron.

POPE FRERICHS is a member of one of the well known families long identified with farm industry and civic advancement in Gage county, and he is well upholding the prestige of the name which he bears, as he is a progressive and successful agriculturist and stock-grower, with operations staged on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his father, in Section 14, Logan township. Of the family history due record is made on other pages of this work, in the sketch dedicated to L. W. Frerichs, father of him whose name introduces this paragraph.

Pope Frerichs was born in Hancock county,

Illinois, August 30, 1875, and was six years old at the time when the family home was established in Gage county. Here he was reared on his father's farm and gained his youthful education in the district schools. He has been engaged in independent farm enterprise since he was eighteen years of age and his farm is improved with good buildings. He utilizes also an adjoining tract of eighty acres, which he owns.

In politics Mr. Frerich is aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party and the popular estimate placed upon his character and ability was shown in his having been called upon to serve in the office of township clerk, of which position he was the incumbent seven years. Both he and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church.

In 1900 Mr. Frerichs married Miss Matilda Zimmerman, daughter of Tamme Zimmerman, who is individually mentioned on other pages. They have no children.

CURTIS O. MARTIN. — In Section 26, Nemaha township, resides Curtis O. Martin, who is one of Gage county's most prosperous farmers and who is the owner of six hundred acres of land in the county, all well improved. Mr. Martin was born December 12, 1868, in Marshall county, Indiana, a son of Jacob and Sarah E. (Groves) Martin.

Jacob Martin, father of our subject, was a native of Ohio. He was born April 5, 1846. He received his early education in the public schools of his native state and as a young man he followed farming in that state. When the Civil war broke out Mr. Martin enlisted in the Indiana Volunteer Infantry and served for some time. After his term of service in the Union army he returned to Indiana and farmed until 1872, when he came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska. They came by train to Nebraska City and thence drove to a point one-half mile north of the town of Adams, Nebraska, where Jacob Martin rented what was known as the Stephen Disher farm. The same year he bought eighty acres in Section 14, Nemaha township, where he remained the balance of his life. Mr. Martin was a very successful farmer, and from time to time bought additional land until at the time of his death he was the owner of one thousand acres of good agricultural land. He passed away September 28, 1910. His wife was born in Indiana January 4, 1845, and died September 3, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Martin were the parents of two children — Curtis O., the subject of this review; and Harry I., who resides in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Curtis O. Martin received his education in the district schools of Nemaha township, Gage county, and assisted his father on the farm. Upon the death of his father he inherited six hundred acres of the estate. This he has greatly improved and he now owns one of the most valuable and well improved farm properties in the township. In politics Mr. Martin is a Republican, and he is now serving as township clerk and as treasurer of the district school board.

On March 2, 1904, was recorded the marriage of Curtis O. Martin and Miss Mae Culp, a native of Ohio and daughter of Andrew J. and Sophia (Maddox) Culp, who also were natives of Ohio. The Culp family came to Nebraska in 1888, and settled in Lancaster county. Later they moved to Gage county. Mr. Culp passed away on April 13, 1915, and his widow now makes her home in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of eight children, as follows: Thelma, Orville, Irene, Bethel, Kenneth, Harold, Keith, and Glenn all at home.

RALPH G. ELLIS has proved himself the possessor of those qualities of manhood which have enabled him to become one of the useful young farmers of Midland township. He is a native of Illinois, born in Woodford county, that state, in 1883. He is a son of Thomas and Laura J. (Billinger) Ellis, a record of whom is to be found on another page of this history.

Ralph G. Ellis was nine years old when he came with his parents to Gage county. His boyhood days were spent on the farm, where he received instructions from his father as to best methods of planting and caring for crops.

He attended the public schools and also took a complete course at Beatrice Business College. On February 23, 1905, Mr. Ellis married Miss Lillian F. Wilson, a daughter of Robert and Mary (Reed) Wilson, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have three children: Francis, Howard B., and Marion W.

Mr. Ellis is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, is engaged in general farming and is meeting with success in his undertakings. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church and in politics he is a Republican.

WILLIAM F. CRANGLE. — At this time, during the greatest conflict the world has ever known, we honor more and more the remaining members of the famous old guard that saved our Union in the '60s. These men, who were then in the flush of their young manhood, and who fought to preserve the integrity of the nation, are to-day well past the three-score years and ten, but their hearts still beat with ardent loyalty and patriotism as they see the young men of the present generation responding to their country's call. Mr. Crangle served all through the Civil war and made a record that shall ever reflect honor upon his name. He enlisted as a private in Company A, Forty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and ere he was mustered out, in 1864, he had been promoted to the rank of corporal. He immediately re-enlisted in the Sixth Regiment United States Veteran Volunteers, in which he attained the rank of seargent and with which he served during the closing period of the war. He received his honorable discharge August 6, 1866.

After these years spent in his country's service, Mr. Crangle returned to Illinois, where he tilled the soil until 1873, when he received from the government a homestead in Adams county, Nebraska, near the little town of Glenville. He spent a few years of hard pioneer life there and then returned to Illinois, but in March, 1883, he came again to the fertile land of Nebraska, this time locating in Gage county. He purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Sections 23 and 25 Rockford township. This place was his home until he gave up active farming and retired, in 1905, to Beatrice, the county seat, in which city he now makes his home.

Mr. Crangle is a native of Saxony, Germany, where he was born October 2, 1841, and he came to this country with his mother and step-father, Levi Ehrlich, in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Ehrlich settled in Henry county, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Ehrlich died at the age of forty-eight years and her husband was sixty years of age at the time of his death.

The marriage of William Crangle and Mrs. Abby J. Sears, widow of Allen Sears, formerly of Wisconsin, was solemnized March 3, 1870. To this union were born six children: Lora E. is the wife of J. H. McKinney, of Springfield, Arkansas; Schuyler C. lives at Mankato, Kansas; Fred N. is a resident of Blue Springs, Gage county; Aurelia A. is the wife of J. B. Graves, of Ogden, Utah; Mina is deceased; and Chester is a resident of Ogden, Utah. Mrs. Crangle passed to the life eternal November 11, 1891.

August 25, 1893, recorded the marriage of Mr. Crangle to Miss Anna Rothrock, daughter of George and Catherine (Warwick) Rothrock, natives of Indiana. This union has been blessed with three children, Lila E., Bertha A., and Neta N., all of whom are with their parents, in Beatrice.

Politically Mr. Crangle votes the Republican ticket and is a member of the Grand Army Republic, Rawlins Post, No. 35 at Beatrice. He is a member of the Baptist church.

FRED H. BARNES. — The men who are the sons of pioneers look with pride upon their ancestry, and it is well that they do, as all of the progress of the world has been stimulated by the pioneers — be they pioneers of a country or industry or principle. Fred Hall Barnes, whose life review we are scanning, is the son of Francis M. and Mary Jane (Dripps) Barnes. Francis Barnes was born May 1, 1833, in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, and in 1842 he was taken to the city of St. Louis,

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Missouri, by his parents, William and Linda Barnes, who passed the remaining years of their life in that city.

Francis M. Barnes attended the St. Louis public schools and laid the foundation upon which he built the structure of his life and principles. In 1854 he went to Kansas City, where he engaged in the transfer business, and in 1858 he came to Richardson county, Nebraska. Thereafter he was engaged in freighting from the Missouri river to the mountains until 1870, when he removed his home and family and settled at what is now the town of Barneston, which was named in his honor. Upon his arrival upon the Otoe Indian reservation lands he forthwith became aware of the fact that there were more redskins than "pale-faces" and had soon established a trading post to barter with the Indians for the things which they had in exchange for the beads and clothing which the white man had. He developed a prosperous mercantile and live-stock business.

November 16, 1856, in Kansas City, Missouri, was solemnized the marriage of Francis Barnes and Miss Mary Jane Dripps, who was born at Bellevue, Nebraska, November 15, 1827, the daughter of Major Andrew and Mary Dripps, the latter having been an Otoe Indian woman. Major and Mrs. Andrew Dripps moved to Missouri and purchased land which to-day is the site of the modern city of Kansas City. Mr. Dripps was associated with the men who banded themselves into a corporation to plat the land of his farm into lots and sell to the people who were rushing to the west. Mr. Dripps realized that this was a strategic point on the Missouri river for a thriving city, but it is possible to believe that he never had any Utopian ideas of Kansas City as it is to-day. Mrs. Mary Jane Barnes is now past ninety years old and has the distinction of being the oldest living person born on Nebraska soil. Her home is made in Barneston, from which her companion passed away August 18, 1916, after sixty-one years of happy companionship. They were the parents of the following children: Gertrude died at the age of twelve years; William is living retired at Guthrie, Oklahoma; Charles G. is retired and lives at Red Rock, Oklahoma; Emmett F. is a farmer near Ponca City, Oklahoma; Katie is the wife of Lymond Dickie, Ottawa, Kansas; and Fred Hall Barnes is the subject of this review. Of the parents further mention is made in the historical department of this volume — specially in connection with the record of Barneston.

As intimated above, Francis M. Barnes was honored by the little city of Barneston being named in commemoration of himself. For many long years he was allied with all of the civic, religious, and social life of his community and was instrumental in giving his support to many worthy causes. He was a charter member of the first lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized in Kansas City and he was also an honored member of the Masonic fraternity.

Fred Hall Barnes, the son of this illustrious couple who allied themselves with so many of the first things of our western country's history, was born near St. Deroin, in Richardson county, Nebraska, July 2, 1868, and came with his parents to Gage county in 1870. He has grown up with the country and is familiar with all of the varying changes which have come during his life. The education which he received in the Barneston schools was supplemented by study at St. Benedict's College at Atchison, Kansas, and the Blake Private School at Beatrice. From the years 1892 to 1898 he was connected with the bank at Barneston, first as bookkeeper and finally as president of the institution. He severed his connections with this business in 1898. He and his venerable mother have about four hundred acres of land in Barneston and Liberty townships and this is rented.

The political sentiments of Mr. Barnes are in harmony with the principles of the Republican party. He was once elected town treasurer, but did not accept the position. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, including the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and also is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

MICHAEL KRUEGER. — The story of a nation is indissolubly linked with and made up of the individual stories of the men who make up the composite whole. Likewise the history of one nation is linked with the history of another. The United States has been the haven of the poor and the oppressed, either religiously or economically, from the Old World. The Old World countries have been settled so long and their farming land cultivated so intensively that there are no great opportunities for advancement for the individual person, such as the United States affords. That many men have attested to this is seen in the fact that millions of immigrants flock to our shores.

The German immigrant is agriculturally inclined and does his work in a highly productive manner. One of these men who came here to secure a livelihood such as his native land could not give, was the late Michael Krueger. His birth date was October 3, 1853, and he was born in Stettin, Germany, where the first seventeen years of his life were spent. In 1870 his parents and their children left their native land and located in Michigan City, Indiana, where they lived until coming to Nemaha township, Gage county, Nebraska.

In Michigan City Michael Krueger worked in the car shops, then he removed to Sycamore, Indiana, where he was employed by a harvester company. But he was not content to work as a laborer, nor were his brothers, so they decided to come to Nebraska and buy the wild lands and go to farming. Consequently, the year 1876 found the Krueger family on their way to Gage county, Nebraska. The land in Section 9, Nemaha township, was selected after many days of looking over the lands and their respective advantages throughout the country. They paid nine dollars an acre for the land and the three brothers, Gottlieb, August, and Michael, decided to farm the land in partnership. Their father and mother also settled on this section, but the father was not able to farm, as he had lost his left leg.

The one-room shanty was soon built and they had to prepare for the breaking of the land. Michael Krueger and his brother August went on foot to Kansas City, Missouri, to purchase a team of horses. They slept wherever night overtook them. In a haystack or strawstack was the best shelter from the wind and cold. Their journey home was not so long or tedious, as they were able to ride horseback.

The parents of Michael Krueger were August and Dorothy (Doring) Krueger. They were both born in Germany and spent their latter years on their farm in Nemaha township. August Krueger was born April 10, 1812, and died in 1890. His wife was born October 3, 1814, and died February 22, 1886. They were the parents of the following children: William is deceased; Gottfried married a sister of Mrs. Michael Krueger, and she lives in Nemaha township; Mrs. Mary Arndt resides at Michigan City, Indiana; Mrs. Minnie Hanson lives in Orange, California; Michael, with whom this sketch deals, is deceased; August is living at Firth, Nebraska.

In 1882 Michael Krueger married Miss Marie Ruter, and eight children were born to this union: William is living at Sidney, Nebraska; Carl resides in Nemaha township, Gage county; John resides in Section 5, Nemaha township; Anna is the wife of R. Wilcox, of Nemaha township; Michael remains in Nemaha township; Maggie is at the maternal home; Fred is running the home farm for his mother; and Katherine is likewise at home.

The mother of this interesting family was born in Westphalia, Germany, October 22, 1859. In 1881 she came to the United States in company with her sister, Mrs. Pape. They came to Gage county, where, in 1882, she married Mr. Krueger. Her parents remained in their native land and after her mother's death her father, William Ruter, came to Nemaha township, in 1885. Here he remained until his death, in 1911. He was born in 1820 and was an old man upon his arrival in this country but lived to be ninety-one years old. He had a family of seven children, three of whom are in Nemaha township — Mrs. H. Pape, Mrs. Michael Krueger, and Mrs. Gottfried Krueger.

Mrs. Michael Krueger is a very energetic woman and very businesslike. Her youngest son, Fred, is running the farm for her, and keeps good grade of cattle and hogs. In 1916 Mrs. Krueger built a large barn, fifty by fifty-two feet in dimensions, and in this way they are able to accommodate a large number of cattle and to store their hay.

Mr. and Mrs. Krueger early professed the faith of the Lutheran church, of which they became communicants. They labored hard in this land of their adoption and at the time of Mr. Krueger's death he owned eight hundred acres of land, which has been divided among the children.

WILLIAM M. KERK is a prosperous farmer in Nemaha township who came to Gage county when a mere lad, and who has become the owner of five hundred and twenty acres of well improved land.

Youth is well said to be the springtime of life. It is then that the blood runs warm in the veins, when obstacles are met with the fresh courage that is ready to conquer them. If it were not for the youth in the world there would be no progress, and no new lands opened up, as middle age is content to remain in one place and condition.

William Kerk was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 16, 1865, and is the son of John K. and Sarah (Fowler) Kerk. John Kerk was a farmer and bird-cage maker. Philadelphia, the city which was founded by William Penn, was the birthplace and abiding place of John Kerk until 1877, when he went with his family to southern Texas, where he expected to farm. But death intervened and his life was snuffed out, in August, 1877, shortly after his arrival in Texas. He was born, in August, 1821, in Philadelphia, and was a son of a German immigrant who had come to this country in the early part of the nineteenth century. His wife, Sarah A. (Fowler) Kerk, was born November 10, 1837, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After her husband's death, in Texas, she took her family of nine children and returned to Philadelphia. She lived to see her family as grown men and women in homes of their own, then she was called up higher. Her death occurred the morning after the sinking of the Maine in Havana harbor, in 1898. Her parents were emigrants from the Emerald Isle.

William Kerk was a lad of eleven years when the big adventure of going to Texas was laid. This ended unhappily, but the lad William had imbibed the wanderlust and was no more content to stay in prosaic Philadelphia. In 1882, when only seventeen years of age, he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and for a number of years he worked as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Cortland. Many a day has he shucked corn on the treeless prairie when the snow was knee-deep — and this for the munificent sum of two and one-half cents a bushel. He also remembers the herds of sheep he cared for on the wild prairie for Frank Holt, in whose honor Holt township was named.

In 1887 Mr. Kerk rented land in Nemaha township, north of Pickrell, and he farmed this land for three years, saving enough money to buy land for himself. He purchased his first land in Lancaster county, Nebraska, near Hickman. It was wild, uncultivated land and had no improvements on it. He had to build his own house, a shelter for his cattle and start the long, tedious task of turning wild land into broad, productive acres. This he accomplished, and for twenty-two years he lived on this farm. In 1912 he sold this farm and purchased his present farm, in Nemaha township, Gage county. He has made improvements on the land to make it more comfortable and useful for his work. In 1917 he purchased two hundred acres of land from Z. S. Branson, making five hundred and twenty acres of land that he is farming.

The marriage of William Kerk and Louisa C. Koontz was solemnized March 2, 1888. Mrs. Kerk was born July 22, 1868, in Galena, Illinois. Her parents, Frank and Julia (Beal) Koontz, came to Lancaster county, Nebraska, in 1867 and homesteaded. They were associated with all of the early endeavors of development, taking an active interest in all things for the upbuilding of a great agricul-

tural county. When the first railroad was built into Lincoln, Mr. Koontz helped in its construction. This railroad was the Burlington, and it still continues its way into Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Koontz, who are now both deceased, were the parents of nine children. Louisa Koontz was born and educated in Lancaster county and has been a devoted helpmeet to her husband, aiding him in all of the ways in which a good woman knows how to assist. One child, Irene, born in 1911, is the light of their home.

Mr. Kerk is a breeder of Hereford cattle, beginning his herd of thoroughbred stock in 1916. His farm is very advantageously situated, so that he is able to feed many cattle for the market. He has a spring of running water where the cattle can get pure, fresh water at all times of the year. This spring has been visited by the farmers during the drouths in years past, when their own wells refused to give water for their cattle.

In politics, Mr. Kerk is an independent thinker, but he feels that Democratic principles are the truest. He is a man who, when a mere lad, grasped the opportunity of his day and has worked faithfully to overcome the obstacles which came in his way.

THOMAS S. ELLIS. — In the death of Thomas S. Ellis, which occurred in Beatrice, May 7, 1915, Gage county lost one of its representative citizens and extensive land-owners. A native of New Jersey, he was born in Somerset county, and when four years old he was taken by his parents to Illinois, where he received a common-school and college education and became a farmer. He attended college at Naples, Illinois.

On June 5, 1874, Mr. Ellis was united in marriage to Miss Laura J. Billinger, a daughter of William and Sarah (McManus) Billinger. In 1892 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased land in Section 18, Midland township. He was successfully engaged in farming until his death. He prospered, and added to his land holdings, being the owner of four hundred and eighty acres. His parents were John and Mary Ellis, who came to Gage county in 1890, and the father passed away, at Beatrice, in December of that year, the mother's death occurring in December, 1891.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Ellis became the parents of three children: John T. is a successful farmer in this county; Ralph G. is a farmer in Midland township; and Mary E. resides in Beatrice.

Mrs. Ellis makes her home in Beatrice, at 822 North Eleventh street. She is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Ellis was a Republican in politics and he devoted all of his active life to farm enterprise.

William and Sarah (McManus) Billinger, parents of Mrs. Ellis, were united in marriage in the year 1841. He was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1819, and his death occurred April 9, 1911. His wife was born in Butler county, Ohio, October 1, 1819. After their marriage they removed to Illinois, the journey being made with a team and covered wagon. They settled in McLean county, that state, where Mr. Billinger was engaged in farming for some time. Removal was then made to Woodford county, Illinois, where he became a prosperous farmer and honored citizen. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. Of their ten children six are living in 1918.

ARTHUR C. SONDEREGGER, of Beatrice, Nebraska, was born in Jefferson county, this state, on the 23d of October, 1888, and is a son of Carl Sonderegger, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume.

Arthur C. Sonderegger received his early education in the public schools of Jefferson county and later went with his brother Ernest to Europe, where they studied for two years, taking a special course in German and studying the nursery and seed business in Germany and Switzerland. Upon returning to the United States Mr. Sonderegger became associated with his father and brothers in the nursery and seed business in Beatrice, where they own and conduct the Sonderegger Nursery and Seed House, one of the largest of its kind in this part of the country.

On October 20, 1915, Mr. Sonderegger was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Atwater, of Beatrice, she being a daughter of William Atwater, who is engaged in the house-moving business in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger are the parents of one child, Phyllis. Mrs. Sonderegger is a member of the Presbyterian church and her husband of the Christian church. They are very highly respected in the community in which they live, and are numbered among the influential families in this part of the state.

HENRY JURGENS is the owner of a valuable farm property of eight hundred acres in Gage county and the same represents the tangible results of his own ability and energy as applied to agricultural and live-stock industry, for when he established his residence in the county his financial resources were notable only for their absence and at first he found employment at farm work. Such a story of success and advancement as has marked his career in Nebraska is a matter for general as well as individual satisfaction and pride. The fine homestead place of Mr. Jurgens is situated in Section 11, Logan township. He was born in Hanover, Germany, January 20, 1859, and is a son of T. H. and Annie (Duitsman) Jurgens, who were numbered among the pioneer settlers of Gage county, where the father became a prosperous farmer and where he still resides, at the venerable age of eighty-four years (1918), his wife having passed to eternal rest several years ago. Of their five children four are living. Mr. Jurgens is a Republican in politics and is an earnest member of the Lutheran church, as was also his wife.

Henry Jurgens acquired his early education in the schools of his native land and has been a resident of Gage county since 1881. For three years he was here employed at farm work by the month, and for the ensuing five years he farmed on rented land. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres, on which he was able to make partial payment, and with increasing prosperity he continued to buy more land until he now has one of the large and valuable farm properties of the county. On his homestead place he has erected excellent buildings, including the spacious and attractive house, which he built in the year 1890. His estate is situated in Logan, Hooker, and Nemaha townships. Mr. Jurgens is essentially liberal and public-spirited as a citizen, is an independent Republican in politics, and both he and his wife are zealous communicants of the Hanover German Lutheran church, he having been a member of the building committee that had in charge the erection of the present fine church edifice.

In 1884 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jurgens to Miss Mary Kruse, who had come to this county in the preceding year. She was born and reared in Germany and is a daughter of Martin Kruse, who there passed his entire life. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Jurgens: Thea has active charge of his father's farm in Hooker township; Rena is the wife of John Ideus, of Logan township; Annie is the wife of Thomas Schuster, of Logan township; Theada is the wife of Christ Meints and they reside on her father's farm in Nemaha township; Martin remains at the parental home; Fannie is the wife of George Paben, of Logan township; and Grace and Henry are the younger members of the parental home circle.

JOHN J. CLANCY is a farmer owning one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 15, Elm township. He is of Irish parentage, his parents coming from Ireland. America has ever received of the best blood of the Old World and Ireland has given of her sons as liberally as the rest.

John J. Clancy was born in Mason county, Illinois, July 31, 1863, and is a son of John and Catherine (Devin) Clancy. John Clancy, Sr., was born in County Waterford, Ireland, in 1831 and when twenty-two years of age he started to seek his fortune in the New World, arriving in Illinois in 1853. Before farming for himself he served his apprenticeship as a farm employe. His wife, Catherine (Devin) Clancy, came from the Emerald Isle when a

MR. AND MRS. HENRY JURGENS

young lassie and settled with her parents in Peoria, Illinois. After her marriage to John Clancy she remained his faithful companion until his death, which occurred in 1896, and she then came to Beatrice, Nebraska, spending the remainder of her days with her son John. She was born in 1821 and died in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Clancy were members of the Catholic church. Of the three children born to them, only John J., the subject of this review, survives.

John J. Clancy was born on the home farm in Illinois, received his early education in the rural schools and as a youth assisted his father on the farm. In 1888 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, settling in Elm township, where he rented his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres for twenty-five years. He purchased this land, from the Schock estate, in 1914. He has made improvements on the farm, erected a large, modern barn and has otherwise made many other provisions to make his work more efficient.

February 16, 1890, John J. Clancy took Miss Ella Hood as his wife. She was born in Mason county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Martin and Ellen (Horan) Hood. Her parents were both born in Ireland. Her father, Martin Hood, was born in 1829, in County Galloway, Ireland. He farmed in Illinois previously to his coming to Elm township, Gage county, in 1884. He spent his later years in Beatrice, where he died, in 1912, aged eighty-three years. His wife, Ellen (Horan) Hood, was born near Aughrim, County Galloway, Ireland, in 1835, and she died in 1893. They were devout, God-fearing, industrious people of the Catholic faith.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Clancy became the parents of two children: Guy T. remains at home with his parents, and Donald Martin is deceased.

Mrs. Clancy was educated in the high school of Creston, Iowa, and the Business College of Beatrice, Nebraska. For six years prior to her marriage she taught school in Gage and Jefferson counties.

Mr. Clancy is shareholder of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Diller, Nebraska. Outside of this his interests have centered in his home and farm. He and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church, and he votes the Democratic ticket. He is a successful farmer and a valued member of his community.

FRANK J. HUBKA, a progressive farmer living in Elm township, is a native of Nebraska. He was born in Pawnee county, and is a son of Bohemian parents, who came to the United States and settled in Pawnee county in the very earliest days for the settling of Nebraska. These parents, Albert and Mary (Kovanda) Hubka, are mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

Frank J. Hubka was born December 28, 1869, in Pawnee county, and received the education of the district schools. His early years, up to his marriage, were spent with his father in the tilling of the soil. In 1892 he rented land from his father, and by dint of hard labor and sacrifice he was eventually able to purchase land for himself. This was his present four hundred and eighty acres of land in Elm township, Gage county. At the time of this purchase he went into debt for seven thousand dollars, but he knew what Nebraska land was and knew that in a very short while he would be able to cancel his indebtedness. He stocked his farm with the well known Hereford cows and from every dollar's worth of corn that he fed them he realized a good profit. In this way he has been able to meet his obligation and to broaden out his estate to include one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 15, Elm township. On this broad acreage Mr. Hubka is enabled to feed many cattle for market every year.

On the 13th day of February, 1892, Frank J. Hubka married Anna Vavruska, who has shared with him, in his work and civic activities, as well as all of his hardships and joys. Three children have come to bless their marriage: Emily is the wife of John S. Bures, living in Elm township; Rudolph is at home; and Albert is attending business college at York, Nebraska, in 1918.

Mrs. Frank J. Hubka was born March 11,

1871, in Marshall county, Kansas, near Marysville, the county seat. Her parents, John and Katherine (Janacek) Vavruska, were natives of Bohemia, joining a great migration of their people to this section of the country. They were farmers, but are now retired, living in Wilber, Nebraska.

Mr. Hubka has taken more than a casual interest in his township. While he is kept very busy in the managing of his farm he is able to devote a portion of his time to the interests of the township at large. Upon his arrival in the township he was made a director of the school board of his district and he has filled that position all of these years. He at one time was the township clerk and for the past four years has served as township treasurer. He is independent in politics, voting for the right man for the place rather than the party's man.

GEORGE W. STEINMEYER. — A native son of Gage county who is making good use of his opportunities and who is contributing in no small way to the development of the natural resources of this great state is George W. Steinmeyer. He was born in Clatonia township, December 29, 1877, a son of John H. Steinmeyer, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume. He was reared on the farm, his early education being supplemented by attendance at Wesleyan University, at Lincoln. On returning from school he became assistant cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Bank at De Witt. In 1905 he organized and became cashier of the State Bank of Holmesville, continuing in that position until 1911. In 1910 he became associated with others in erecting and equipping the hydro-electric plant at Holmsville, which furnishes electricity to Wymore, Blue Springs, and Beatrice. This concern has been under his supervision since it was established. This enterprise is of inestimable value to the communities which it serves and the promoter, Mr. Steinmeyer, deserves much credit.

October 14, 1915, Mr. Steinmeyer married Miss Hazel Phillips, daughter of J. T. Phillips, of Lincoln.

Mr. Steinmeyer represented his county in the state legislature in 1915 and is a staunch Republican. Fraternally he belongs to the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

FRANK F. PAPE. — One of Gage county's prosperous tenant farmers is Frank F. Pape, residing on Section 7, Nemaha township, where he farms two hundred and forty acres of land. Mr. Pape was born February 16, 1883, in Gage county, Nebraska, and is a son of Henry and Charlotte (Rueter) Pape. He was the eldest of three children, his sister Lena, wife of William Hasenohr, living near Beatrice, and his brother, Charles, being at home with his parents. Henry Pape, the father of our subject, was born November 24, 1850, in Prussia, Germany, and is a son of Henry and Charlotte (Buschman) Pape. Henry Pape was a farmer and miner in his native land until 1880, when he immigrated to America, and settled in Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased eighty acres of railroad land, for which he paid ten dollars an acre. He had but little money and the purchase of this land put him pretty badly in debt, but by hard work and strict economy he was finally able to clear off the encumbrance, and from time to time he has bought additional farm land until at the present time he is the owner of three hundred and thirty-three acres of good agricultural land. Mr. Pape is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Association of Cortland, Nebraska. He made extensive improvements on his farms and in 1914 he retired. By a previous marriage, in 1874, to Margaret Schaffer, a native of Germany, who died in 1880, Mr. Pape had three sons: Henry and William, of Nemaha township, and Fred, in the implement business at Pickrell, this county.

Frank S. Pape was educated in the district schools of Nemaha township, and assisted his father on the farm until he started farming on his own account. On December 25, 1913, Mr. Pape was united in marriage to Miss Marie L. Remmers, a native of Nemaha township, Gage county, and a daughter of John E.

Remmers, of whom a record will be found on other pages of this publication. Mr. and Mrs. Pape are members of the German Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Pape is an independent voter.

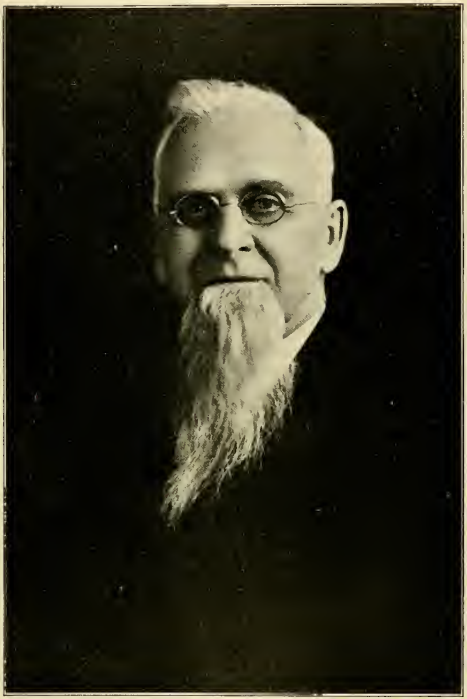
HIRAM P. CROCKER. — In this semi-centennial history of Nebraska and Gage county is is specially gratifying to accord merited recognition to the sterling and honored pioneer citizen whose name initiates this paragraph and who is now living virtually retired. Mr. Crocker came to Gage county first in 1874, and in that year he here secured a tract of unimproved land, but not until two years later did he here establish his home. His financial resources when he located in the county were summed up in twenty-five dollars, aside from the landed investment, and he thus lived up to the full tension of pioneer life during the period of reclaiming his land and bringing the same into effective cultivation. Further interest attaches to his career by reason of the fact that he is a scion of an honored family that was founded in New England in the early colonial period of our national history.

The original American progenitors of the Crocker family were William and John Crocker, and the subject of this review is a lineal descendant of William Crocker. William and John set sail from the south of England for America in the year 1634, and the little vessel on which they took passage lost its way and was greatly delayed in the voyage across the Atlantic. The brothers established their residence in the historic Cape Cod district of Massachusetts, and the name has long been one of prominence and influence in that section of the old Bay state. William Crocker married and reared a large family of children. He became one of the extensive land owners on Cape Cod and history records that the first law suit tried in that district was that in which he successfully brought charge against a man for stealing certain property from him. The culprit was convicted and his penalty was being flogged, the verdict of the court being in the application of a designated number of lashes to the back of the malefactor. Samuel Crocker, a grandson of William, was a gallant soldier of the Continental Line in the war of the Revolution, in which he served as colonel of a regiment of Massachusetts troops.

Hiram P. Crocker was born in Erie county, New York, on the 22d of July, 1839, and is a son of Oscar F. C. and Abigail (Weatherlow) Crocker, both of whom passed their entire lives in the old Empire state, where the former was born July 10, 1810, and the latter about the year 1815, her parents having been of German ancestry. Oscar F. C. Crocker learned in his youth the trade of tanner, but eventually he abandoned the work of his trade to turn his attention to agricultural pursuits. Of the family of two sons and two daughters Hiram P., of his review, is the eldest, and he remained at the parental home until he had attained to the age of thirteen years, when he became a member of the family circle of his maternal grandfather, in the same township. He remained with his grandfather seven years, and in the meanwhile continued to attend the common schools when opportunity afforded. This educational discipline was supplemented by a course of study in an academy at Yorkshire, Cattaraugus county, New York. After leaving the academy he was for three years employed by the month, by two of his maternal uncles, and he then assumed charge of his father's homestead farm.

On the 6th of October, 1864, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Crocker to Miss Ella L. Cheney, who was born at Holland, Erie county, New York, March 20, 1846, a daughter of Joseph and Sylvia E. (Pickard) Cheney. Mr. Cheney was born at Freedom, Cattaraugus county, New York, on the 28th of June, 1819, and his wife was born in Springfield, Otsego county, that state, March 5, 1824. His death occurred June 9, 1884.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Crocker became actively associated with the management of the homestead farm of his father-in-law, and there he remained until 1869, when he removed to Warren county, Illinois. There he



HIRAM P. CROCKER

continued to be engaged in farming until the spring of 1874, when he came to the new state of Nebraska and, after a survey of different localities, decided in favor of Gage county, where he purchased six hundred and forty acres of land in Section 16, Filley township, the township having then been known by the name of Mud Creek. After securing this property Mr. Crocker returned to Illinois, but in the spring of 1876 he came with his family to Gage county, where he rented a partially improved farm, near Beatrice, until he could prepare his own land for cultivation and there erect a house and other necessary buildings. Within the first year Mr. Crocker broke one hundred and thirty acres of the virgin prairie soil of his farm, besides erecting a small house in the spring of 1877, at which time the family home was here established. With the passing years he made each successive season give forth bounties from his farm, and developed the place gradually until it is now one of the model farms of the county. In the winter of 1883-1884 he sold three hundred and twenty acres of the land, but he is still the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of finely improved farm land in Gage county. His character and ability have been so appreciated that he has been frequently importuned to become a candidate for local office of public trust, but he has declined to give favorable consideration to such overtures, though he has been an active and loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party from the time when he cast his presidential vote, in support of Abraham Lincoln. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and his wife, who was his devoted companion and helpmeet for almost fifty years, was a zealous member of the Christian church, their gracious companionship having been severed when the loved wife and mother was summoned to eternal rest, her death having occurred on the 30th of September, 1912. Mr. Crocker is now living retired and in his venerable years he resides in the home of his son Lloyd, at Beatrice, where he is accorded the fullest measure of filial solicitude. Of the three children the eldest, Frank, resides upon and has charge of the old homestead farm; Lloyd is individually mentioned in an article immediately following this; and Dr. Dorr Crocker is a representative physician and surgeon at Centralia, Washington.

LLOYD CROCKER. — In the foregoing context has been given a succinct review of the career of Hiram P. Crocker, father of him whose name introduces this article, and thus it is unnecessary to give further recapitulation of the family history. Lloyd Crocker has been a resident of Gage county from the time of his birth and in addition to having the distinction of being a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of this favored section of the state he has also made for himself secure vantage-ground as one of the representative members of the bar of his native county, with a large and important practice, and with residence and professional headquarters in the city of Beatrice, the attractive capital and metropolis of the county.

On the old homestead farm in Filley township, this county, Mr. Crocker was born on the 3d of December, 1879, and his boyhood and early youth were compassed by the invigorating influences of the home farm, the while he continued his studies in the public schools until he had completed the curriculum of the high school in the village of Filley. In pursuance of higher academic discipline he then entered Wesleyan University, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and in this institution he was graduated in 1902, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In preparation for his chosen profession he then was matriculated in the law department of the University of Nebraska, and in 1906 he received from this university the degree of Bachelor of Laws, with virtually concomitant admission to the bar of his native state. In July of the following year Mr. Crocker formed a partnership with Samuel Killen, with whom he was associated in practice at Beatrice for the ensuing year. Since that time he has conducted an individual law practice, and has been concerned with much important litigation in the courts of this section of the state, with a record that marks him

as one of the resourceful trial lawyers and able counselors at the bar of Gage county. As a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party Mr. Crocker was with the minority organization in Gage county the year he ran for county attorney, and thus normal political exigency compassed his defeat, as it did also on the two occasions when he was its candidate for county judge.

In 1906 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Crocker to Miss Maude Bowen, who was born in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, her father, Richard Bowen, a native of Wales, having become a prosperous farmer in Iowa, whence he eventually came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he was associated with the same fundamental industry until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Crocker have three children — Rachel, Arlo, and Eloise. The family is one of prominence and distinctive popularity in the social activities of Gage county and its attractive judicial center.

EILERT HARMS has, after years of tilling the soil and undergoing the privations necessary to own and operate the number of acres of land that he does, removed to Firth, Nebraska, and is successfully conducting a leading lumber business in this thriving town. The early years of Mr. Harms' life were spent in the crudest of surroundings and under the most simple conditions. A life of this kind always makes strong minds and bodies that are able to cope with the problems that confront men. Eilert Harms' parents were German immigrants who came to this land of opportunity in 1856. They settled in Petersburg, Menard county, Illinois, remained there a few years and then started for the fertile lands of Missouri. They homesteaded land in Atchison county, where they remained the rest of their lives. Ten children were born to them. Eilert, with whom this sketch directly deals, and Mrs. Fannie Johnson, living in Franklin county, Nebraska, are the only ones who survive. The parents, John O. and Matilda (Rodemaker) Harms, were born in Germany. John O. was born in 1825 and died in 1907: his wife was born in 1826 and died in 1906. They were industrious people, they reared a large family of children, and they labored to forward the march of civilization in Missouri.

Eilert Harms was born in Menard county, Illinois, shortly after his parents' arrival in this land of opportunity. As a lad he went with his parents to Atchison county, Missouri. There was very little opportunity for education in those early days. There were no schools in these new districts and even where one was built, the boys were given very little opportunity to attend. Mr. Harms thus received little education of the kind learned from books. He remained with his parents, learning the art of farming at his own father's home, and when he decided on a vocation for himself he was equipped with the knowledge necessary to become a successful farmer.

In 1881 Mr. Harms purchased land in Section 6, Adams township, Gage county, although he did not come to live on and improve his land until 1885. With a good, strong team of mules he made the journey and upon his arrival he built his shanty and bought the necessary implements for farming. When all this was done he had not money left to do any more. But his heart was young, his young wife was at his side to share his hardships and his joys, and they bravely set to work to win the wild lands to productivity. During all of the intervening years Mr. Harms has continued to increase his land holdings, until to-day he owns six hundred and forty acres of land, in Gage and Lancaster counties.

Eilert Harms was married in August, 1884, to Anna Hackman, who was born December 12, 1864, in Nemaha county, Nebraska. Her parents, who were of German birth, settled in Nemaha county when land values were low and when hard labor was required to gain the necessities of life. Mrs. Harms' father, Charles Hackman, was born in Germany and died in 1865, in Nemaha county, Nebraska. His widow, Louisa Hackman, lives near Filley, Gage county.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Harms: Lulu is the wife of A. Krueger, on the old home place in Adams town-

ship; John E., who is in the lumber business at Firth, Lancaster county, married Miss Fannie Graff; Harry H., who resides in Lancaster county, married Miss Goldie Burchman.

These children have all received good educational advantages. Mr. and Mrs. Harms wanted their children to have the opportunities of education which they were not able to get in their own youth. After finishing their work in the district schools the sons and daughter were allowed to go to the high school. To do this properly and with the proper surroundings Mr. Harms moved to Firth, in 1907, and gave his children every chance for advancement. When he first came to Firth he did not devote himself to any work outside of the supervision of his farms until 1911, when he purchased the business of the Farmers' Lumber Company, which he is now successfully conducting with his son, John E. Mr. and Mrs. Harms are members of the Lutheran church, which receives liberally of their support. The principles of the Democratic party are upheld by the vote of Mr. Harms.

JOHN G. WIEBE. — Among the pioneer business men of Beatrice who have been called from earthly activities mention should be made of John G. Wiebe. He was born in Germany, January 16, 1835. He came to America in August, 1876, and after a short stay at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, he came to Beatrice, in 1877, and established himself in the lumber business. He conducted this enterprise until his death, which occurred January 20, 1911. The firm still retains the name of its founder.

In April, 1864, Mr. Wiebe was united in marriage to Miss Lisette Penner, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Andreas Penner, the Penner family coming to America at the same time Mr. Wiebe did: they were members of the Mennonite colony which came to this country on account of religious persecution.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wiebe were born seven children, four of whom are still living: Mrs. Henry Wiebe, of Blakely township; Henry; Anna; and Mrs. J. H. Penner, of Beatrice.

John G. Wiebe was a good business man and a good citizen. His passing was a loss to his family and to the community. He was a devoted member of the Mennonite church and in politics was a Republican. His son Henry was born in Danzig, Germany, January 6, 1871. He was educated in the Beatrice public schools and entered the lumber business with his father. He and William Hamm are now the owners of the business conducted under the title of the J. G. Wiebe Lumber Company.

JOHN L. DAWSON. — When we hear the name of a famous general or a titled soldier our thoughts instantly revert to the inspiring scenes of the particular battlefield on which he distinguished himself as a commander; but the honored title expresses still more than the military prowess and skill of the bearer — it is a still broader term and marks the loyal devotion and dauntless courage of thousands of brave men without whose daring deeds the title could never have been won. A general may possess military genius, but if his commands do not fall on the ears of tried and true men, men of intrepid daring and unconquerable zeal, of devotion to cause and utter disregard of self, then his genius avails him naught. One of the bravest of the brave soldiers who helped maintain the honor of the famous generals during the Civil war, and forever placed a grateful country under obligations to him because of his zeal in her behalf, is the gentleman in whose honor we write this sketch. He has distinguished himself not only by his honorable and ardent career as a soldier but he has also proved himself in every sense a noble, patriotic, industrious, intelligent, and progressive citizen — one whose name deserves to be handed down in history.

Mr. Dawson was born on a farm in Stark county, Illinois, September 9, 1840. His parents were William and Amelia (Dorman) Dawson, the former of Irish descent and the latter a native of Maryland. They accompan-

MR. AND MRS. JOHN L. DAWSON

ied their respective parents to Ohio and there met and married. In 1836 they became pioneer settlers of Henry county, Illinois, and later moved to Stark county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They crossed the Illinois river at Peoria when that place contained but one store, a blacksmith shop, and a few shanties. Here John L. Dawson was reared and when a young man he responded to his country's call and enlisted, July 6, 1862, as a private in Company E, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. For three years he served with this regiment and he was mustered out of service at the expiration of his term of enlistment, at Greensboro, North Carolina, June 30, 1865. Some of the important conflicts in which he participated were the siege of Knoxville and the engagements at Camp Arthur, Resaca, Utah Charge, Franklin, and Nashville. After the last named engagement his regiment was sent to Alexandria, near Washington, where they camped until they were transferred to Fort Fisher. There they remained until the close of the war. He was a good soldier, always found at his post of duty, and when the war was over he returned to his father's home in Stark county, Illinois. In that county he engaged in farming and became the owner of one hundred and forty acres of land.

In 1888 Mr. Dawson came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased four hundred acres of land, in Wymore and Sicily townships. An orchard and a little shanty were the only improvements, but he set himself to building and improving, and for twenty-eight years he successfully carried on his agricultural pursuits. He then retired to Wymore, where he now resides in a beautiful home, surrounded by the necessities and luxuries which he justly deserves.

In Stark county, Illinois, on the 2d of February, 1871, Mr. Dawson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Taylor, a native of England. She is a daughter of Jacob Taylor, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Dawson have become the parents of three children: William A., a furniture dealer of Wymore; Jacob S., a farmer of Sicily township; and Ethel, wife of Charles Rossiter, of Wymore.

The family attend the Methodist church, of which Mrs. Dawson is a member. In politics Mr. Dawson votes with the Republican party, which he considers to have always been the party of progress and reform. The lapel of his coat is adorned with the bronze emblem which signifies that the wearer not only served his country as a soldier but maintains association with his army comrades as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He belongs to Coleman Post, No. 115, of Wymore. Like many other defenders of the nation in the Civil war, Mr. Dawson has felt the effects of service. In his own words: "Six months at a stretch living on fat pork and hard tack did not do me any good." To those brave boys of 1861-1865 the nation owes a debt of gratitude that never can be paid. Mr. Dawson has been as loyal to duty and citizenship in days of peace as when he followed the stars and stripes on the battlefields of the South.

THOMAS VASEY, a successful farmer of Sicily township, is a native of England, who immigrated to this country with his parents in 1883 and he has since become one of the influential farmers and citizens of Gage county.

Thomas Vasey was born in Scarborough, England, January 9, 1857, and is a son of Thomas and Hannah (Dowsland) Vasey. Thomas Vasey, Sr., was born in England, November 23, 1822, and his wife, Hannah (Dowsland) Vasey, was likewise a native of England, where she was born October 17, 1822. They had become the parents of eight children ere they left their native land to cast in their fortunes with the people of the United States. In the spring of 1883 they took passage for our shores, and after their arrival they remained in Illinois for the summer months: in the fall they located in Gage county, Nebraska, where Thomas Vasey, Sr., rented land. September 13, 1888, the loved wife and mother passed to the life eternal, and July 11, 1894, Thomas Vasey, Sr., was

laid to rest. Concerning their children the following brief record is consistently entered: William died in England; Jane died in Oklahoma; George is a farmer of Alma, Nebraska; Frank is a retired farmer residing in Beatrice, Gage county, Dowsland is a farmer in Liberty township, this county; Mary is the widow of David Akers and resides in Illinois; John is in the dairy business at Beatrice; Elizabeth is the wife of James Langdale, an employe of the Union Pacific Railroad, at Beatrice, and he has three sons in the war service in which the United States is taking prominent part; and Thomas is the immediate subject of this sketch.

Thomas Vasey received his education in the schools of England and attended the rural school of Holmesville for three months after his arrival in Gage county. April 6, 1897, he married Miss Cordelia Jones, who was born in Wales and who is a daughter of George U. and Anna (Cooper) Jones. Mr. Jones was born in the Cymrian district of Wales, July 13, 1842, and his wife was born in Flint, Wales, the place of her nativity having been in Hope parish and the date of her birth July 29, 1842. Their marriage was solemnized at Chester, Wales, September 10, 1865, and in 1871 they came to the United States. Mr. Jones first located at Shenandoah, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, where he remained ten years. He then removed to Racine, Wisconsin, but about six months later he located in Ohio, where, as a carpenter and builder he found employment in connection with work on the state capitol, in the city of Columbus. He continued his activities as a contractor and builder until he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he purchased land. He gradually added to his landed estate, by buying land near Wymore, and in this part of the county he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred November 13, 1906. Mr. Jones was a very well educated man and never ceased adding to his fund of knowledge by wide reading and keeping abreast of the times. In Wales, before he sailed for this country, he was contributing some of his original poetry and other writings to a local paper. He served Gage county in the legislature from 1897 to 1901. His parents, Ellis and Jane Jones, were born in the town of Flint, Hope parish, and spent all of their lives in their native land. His wife, Anna (Cooper) Jones, is a daughter of Captain William Cooper, an Englishman, and Elizabeth (Davis) Cooper, who was of Welsh parentage. Mrs. Jones is still living and resides in the home of Mrs. Vasey.

No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Vasey. Giving close attention to his farming interests, Mr. Vasey does a general farming business on eighty acres, which he purchased in 1909 the same being in Section 13, Sicily township. Mr. Vasey has served for the past six years as road overseer. His political views are in harmony with the tenets of the Republican party, which receives his vote. He is a member of the United Brethren church, while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church.

ARTHUR T. TART. — The business success achieved by Arthur T. Tart, proprietor of the "All Night and All Day Garage," 112-14-16-18 North Seventh street, Beatrice, is an illustration of what can be accomplished by the individual who grasps the opportunities of his day.

Mr. Tart was born August 9, 1873, in Kankakee, Illinois, and is a son of Stephen and Nettie (Hughes) Tart, of whose two children he is the firstborn; the younger, Belle A., was born in 1874 and died in 1893.

Stephen Tart, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Alburg, Vermont, December 6, 1839. He was a son of Peter and Roslia (Terrien) Tart. Peter Tart was descended from French ancestors who, in the early history of the New World, when both religious and economic oppression in the Old World forced so many to leave, came to Canada to live. After he had participated in the Revolutionary war in Canada Peter Tart came over into the United States. Suffering from a wound which he had received, he was captured, but later he made his escape. For years after the war he farmed in Vermont.

The latter part of his life was spent in Kankakee, Illinois, where, just before rounding out a century of years, he passed to his reward. He was ninety-nine years of age and his wife ninety-eight at the time of their death.

Stephen Tart, the father of Arthur T. Tart, received his early education in Bourbonnais, Illinois, a French settlement two miles north of Kankakee. In 1861, when Civil war rent our nation in twain, he responded to the call to arms. He was a member of Battery I, First Illinois Light Artillery, having enlisted at Chicago. In the battle of Shiloh he was wounded, but later he was able to again render active service in the preservation of the integrity of the nation.

After the war Stephen Tart engaged in the hotel business, which he successfully conducted. Politics soon absorbed a good deal of his time and attention. In 1889 he was elected county assessor and collector in Kankakee county, Illinois. He was a staunch Republican, faithfully voting that ticket. December 6, 1870, he married Miss Nettie Hughes, a daughter of Henry Hughes, at Joliet, Illinois. Mrs. Tart was born in New York city, in 1852. In 1901 Mr. Tart removed with his family to Beatrice, Nebraska, and here his death occurred in 1906. His wife survives him and is living with her son Arthur. Mrs. Tart is a member of the Episcopal church. She is a sister of Charles Hughes, in whose biography, on other pages, is given a full account of the Hughes family.

Arthur T. Tart was reared in Kankakee, Illinois, where he received his early education in the parochial schools. Later he supplemented this discipline by attending a private college in Bourbonnais, Illinois. When he was twenty years old he was a traveling salesman for a wholesale merchandise firm of Lynn, Massachusetts: this was in 1893. From 1898 to 1901 he was employed by the government, in the forest-reserve department.

As early as 1883 Mr. Tart had been to Beatrice, Nebraska, to visit his uncles, Charles and Edward Hughes. In 1901, when contemplating a change in his business life, he located at Beatrice, with his parents. At this time he was employed as a salesman for a firm in Kansas City, Missouri.

June 30, 1904, recorded the marriage of Arthur Tart to Miss Emily E. Floyd, of Goodland, Kansas. She was the mother of two children, Arthur F. H. and Henry S., who are at home with their father. Mrs. Tart's death occurred in 1910. Louise Floyd, the sister of Emily Floyd, both daughters of H. H. and Amanda (Mahan) Floyd, became the wife of Mr. Tart in 1915. She was born at Abilene, Kansas. One child, Emily Isabelle, has come to bless this union.

Arthur T. Tart has had long years of experience as a salesman, having traveled and sold goods in every state in the Union. His experience along this line made him see the possibilities of an all-night and all-day garage, and in August, 1916, he opened the first all-night garage in Beatrice, where his dream of success in this line of enterprise has been realized. He installed an all-night force and soon demonstrated the fact that night work was as important as day work. He has a large building, one hundred by one hundred and forty feet, fronting on North Seventh street. In this he is able to meet all the needs of his patrons as to storage, repairs, gasoline, accessories, etc. He carries a well stocked line of accessories and electrical goods.

Mr. Tart is an independent voter, exercising his franchise in support of the man and not the party. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Elks, and United Commercial Travelers. He is a member of the Episcopalian church.

Mr. Tart is well known for his many excellent qualities, his genial disposition, and sound business principles. He saw the opportunity and grasped it, and he now has a well established business that is worthy of his time and talent.

JOSEPH LEGGETT. — The late Joseph Leggett was one of the gallant soldiers of the Union in the Civil war, was an early transcontinental freighter, was a successful farmer in Gage county, and was a valued citizen

Mrs. Joseph Leggett

Joseph Leggett

of his community. The story of the pioneers of the west is an interesting one, full of thrills, and marked by as many blood-curdling scenes as those depicted in any moving-picture play, so dear to the hearts of the "movie fans."

Mr. Leggett, in his work as a freighter from Omaha to Salt Lake City, Utah, drove a good, sturdy team of oxen. Most of the time on his journeys to and from Salt Lake City he had only the elements to contend with — the oppressive heat in summer and the severe cold and the snow storms in winter. But occasionally the Indians interfered with the white man's trespassing on their happy hunting grounds. It was a band of this sort of Indians that surprised and captured Mr. Leggett on one of his journeys, just as he was reaching the top of the mountains. He made his escape from them in a very novel manner. They were taking him, on foot back to their camp, and when they came to a ravine he pretended that he did not know how to cross, motioning them that they should go first. This they did, without any questions, and ere they knew what had happened he had shot three of them. The other two raced for their lives, and Mr. Leggett was left to find his way back to his wagon and oxen. Again, on another occasion, an Indian furtively stole upon him while he was feeding his oxen in a grassy meadow. They looked into each other's eyes at the same moment. The Indian wounded Mr. Leggett in the arm before he could reach for his firearm, but, nevertheless, the life of the Indian was the forfeit, as Mr. Leggett's aim was true and deadly. Such experiences as these were of common occurrence in the early days, and Mr. Leggett loved to recount them.

Joseph Leggett was born in Ohio, February 20, 1841. His parents, Joseph and Mahala (Puffunbarger) Leggett, had crossed the mountains from Maryland to farm the fertile lands of Ohio, where they reared seven children in their pioneer home. Joseph Leggett was the third child and was reared with his brothers and sisters in the old Buckeye state, where he acquired his youthful education in the common schools of the period.

When the Civil war rent our nation asunder Mr. Leggett responded to the call of patriotism and fought throughout the conflict that preserved the Union. After the war he established his residence in Illinois.

The marriage of Joseph Leggett to Eliza C. Magee was solemnized at Springfield, Illinois, February 3, 1870. They settled on a farm, and they continued to pursue agricultural activities in Illinois until their coming to Gage county, Nebraska. Upon their arrival here, October 9, 1883, they purchased eighty acres of land in Glenwood township, three miles northwest of Odell. This was wild prairie land, and here they made their home for a number of years, reclaiming the wild prairies to fruitfulness and improving their farm with a good house, barn, and other buildings. When Mr. Leggett sold this farm he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Section 4 of the same township, and here he continued his farm operations until his retirement to Odell, in 1908. In this village his death occurred the 26th day of August, 1910.

Mrs. Eliza C. Leggett, the widow of Joseph Leggett, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, August 23, 1853. Her parents, Ezekiel and Elizabeth (Grey) Magee, were born and reared in Ohio and thence removed to Illinois in 1856. Mrs. Leggett was a small child at the time of this removal and she was reared and educated in Illinois, where she remained until she came with her husband to Gage county, Nebraska.

Mrs. Leggett is spending many hours a day knitting for our soldiers boys "somewhere in France." In this connection it is interesting to note that she did knitting for the "boys in blue" during the Civil war. Her half-brother and an uncle, James Grey, fought in defense of the Union. Her uncle was captured by the enemy and was incarcerated in Andersonville Prison, where so many soldiers were starved to death. He finally succeeded in making his escape from the prison by swimming for five miles up a stream. When his escape was

him, but they went down stream instead of up, noted, posses of men were sent to recapture and thus he was enabled to get a good start of his captors.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Leggett: George H., who was born November 26, 1872, is living at Diller, Jefferson county; Joseph L., who was born February 1, 1874, resides at Odell, Gage county; James W., born May 1, 1877, is living at Elk City, Kansas; Ida M., born May 3, 1879, is the wife of F. Novotny, of Elm township; Nina O., born August 23, 1881, if the wife of Edward Novotny, of Elm township; Truda A., born October 7, 1883, is the wife of George Saffell, of Elm township; Emma, born March 25, 1885, became the wife of William Novotny, and is now deceased; and Everett, born January 14, 1890, lives at Fairbury, Jefferson county.

Mr. Leggett was a Democrat in politics and was always a loyal and public-spirited citizen. Mrs. Leggett is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HENRY E. HARMS. — Agriculture is the foundation of all prosperity, and among the men of Adams township who are following every requirement as tillers of the soil, mention should be made of Henry E. Harms, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 14. He was four years old when brought to Gage county, and his boyhood days were spent on a farm in Hanover township. After he became a man he worked as a laborer in Adams for six years. He then became a farmer on Bear creek and successfully tilled the soil as a renter, carefully saving his earnings until he was able to purchase his present farm, in 1909. This is one of the well improved farms in this section of the county, and the modern house and other substantial buildings have all been put here by the present owner.

Henry E. Harms was born in Holt county, Missouri, May 24, 1877, and is a son of Weike and Mary (Thieman) Harms, natives of Illinois. The mother died in Missouri. The father came to Gage county in 1881, and was a farmer in Hanover township until his death, in 1884, at the age of forty-two years. Weike Harms was married three times and became the father of seven children — John, deceased; Henry E., of this sketch; Herman, a resident of Johnson county, Nebraska; Eilert, of Oklahoma; John, of Chase county, Nebraska; Louise, deceased; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Henry E. Harms completed his arrangements for a home of his own by his marriage, on October 14, 1897, to Miss Johanna Rapp, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of Garret and Dina (Klein) Rapp, the former a native of Holland, the latter of the state of Iowa: they were early settlers in Gage county, where they still make their home. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Harms has been made happy by the birth of four children, as follows: Weike, Garret, Fred, and Henry.

Mr. Harms is a good farmer and a good neighbor. His prosperity has come to him through his own efforts and, with a good wife and fine children, he has every reason to be a happy man.

WILLIAM HAMM. — The business interests of Beatrice have a worthy representative in the gentleman whose name introduces this review and who is senior member of the J. G. Wiebe Lumber Company. A native of Germany, he was born April 11, 1859. His parents were Peter and Emily (Siemens) Hamm, who came from their native land in 1880 and were making their home in Beatrice at the time of their death, which occurred November 26, 1882, both being suffocated by coal gas. The father was born in 1820, and was a merchant in Germany. The date of the mother's birth was July 30, 1832. They were parents of five children: Agatha, William, and John, all unmarried, reside in Beatrice; Emily is the wife of Dr. S. K. Mosiman, president of Bluffton College, at Bluffton, Ohio; and Helen is the wife of William Penner, of Gage county.

The paternal grandparents of William Hamm were William and Catherine (Goosen) Hamm, who lived and died in Germany. The

maternal grandparents were C. W. and Amalie (Thiessen) Siemens, and they too died in Germany.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in his native land, where also he gained experience in the general merchandise business. In 1879 he came to America and in 1880 he entered the employ of J. G. Wiebe. After seven years of faithful service he was made a member of the firm. In 1900 J. G. Wiebe retired from business and his son, Henry Wiebe, succeeded him as a member of the firm, William Hamm and Henry Wiebe being now sole proprietors. Out of deference and respect to the founder of the business the firm name remains the same as it has been for over forty years. Mr. Hamm is familiar with all phases of the lumber business and is a valued member of commercial life of his adopted city. His religious belief is that of the Mennonite church, which was the church of his fathers. In politics he is a Republican.

CHARLES C. SONDEREGGER, of Beatrice, was born in Jefferson county, Nebraska, April 15, 1877, and is a son of Carl Sonderegger, of whom mention is made on other pages of this history. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of Jefferson county, and after leaving school he engaged in the nursery business with his father, in Beatrice, where they now have a large nursery known as the Sonderegger Nursery and Seed House. This nursery is one of the largest in the state, and they enjoy a very prosperous business.

November 8, 1904, Mr. Sonderegger was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Jones, who was born in Winterset, Iowa. She is a daughter of Morris Jones, who came with his family to Nebraska a number of years ago and settled in Saline county. Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger are the parents of two children: Carl, born April 4, 1909, and Morris, born February 21, 1912. Mrs. Sonderegger is a member of the Methodist church and her husband of the Christian church. He is a member of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and of the Beatrice Commercial Club, having served on the official board of the last named organization for four years. In politics Mr. Sonderegger is a Republican, but he has no desire for political office, preferring to devote his entire time to the nursery and seed business.

JOHN HEETLAGE, who owns and operates a splendid farm of eighty acres in Section 17, Adams township, is in every respect a self-made man. A native of Germany, he was born November 30, 1861. His parents were Meinert and Fannie (Beurkmeyer) Heetlage, and both passed their entire lives in Germany. Of their five children three are still living. John was the only one of the family to come to America. He left his native land in 1883 and after two years spent in Michigan he came to Nebraska and worked as a farm hand, later renting land and engaging in farming. In 1901 he bought his present farm. A nice house and other farm buildings which he has erected make this a desirable place to live.

On the 16th of March, 1890, Mr. Heetlage was united in marriage to Miss Dena Van Engen, who was born in Holland, a daughter of Garret and Gertrude (Shoemaker) Van Engen. To this union have been born three children, Marion, Grace, and Frederick, the son being deceased. The family are members of the Dutch Reformed church at Pella, Nebraska, the teachings of which are the guiding motives of their daily life.

Mr. Heetlage casts his vote for the Republican party. A stranger in a strange land, with willing hands and determination to succeed, he has every reason to be proud of his own accomplishment as well as of the land where such achievements are possible. By industry and good management he has arrived at a position in the affairs of his adopted country which commands for him the respect and esteem of all who know him.

HARRY T. F. DAVIS. — The late Harry Davis was a successful and representative farmer of Elm township, where from his youth he gave himself vigorously and loyally

Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. F. Davis

to the basic industries of agriculture and stock-growing. In 1889 Mr. Davis first rented from his father the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Section 6, Elm township, and in 1893 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Section 7. He continued to farm these two tracts of land until 1905, when he sold the land in Section 7 and purchased the land which he had previously rented and which had been owned by his father. In connection with agricultural enterprise Mr. Davis was an extensive buyer and feeder of cattle, which he sent by the carload to the city markets. He remained actively in charge of his farm until his death, which occurred August 14, 1907.

Mr. Davis was born March 5, 1867, in Utica, New York, and was a son of Edward F. and Helen (Ferguson) Davis. (See sketch in this volume for complete history of this family.) Harry Davis was nine years old when his parents moved to Beatrice, Nebraska. In the public schools of Beatrice he received his early education, and he was well known to the older settlers. In his youth he built a sand boat — said to be the first one launched upon the Blue river at Beatrice.

The marriage of Mr. Davis and Gladys Lillie was solemnized October 20, 1894, and concerning their children the following record is given: Hazel is the wife of W. Patton, a farmer living at Diller, Jefferson county; Ruth, who is a graduate of the Diller high school, is teaching school near Odell, Gage county, at the time of this writing; Elizabeth, a graduate of the Diller high school, remains at home; and Fay is attending school at Steele City, Jefferson county.

Mrs. Gladys (Lillie) Davis was born June 8, 1873, in Ogle county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Jacob and Maria (Harleman) Lillie. Jacob Lillie was born in 1836, in Pennsylvania. He was a cabinetmaker and after locating at Rochelle, Illinois, he built a shop for his headquarters in making furniture, coffins, and wagons. He was an expert painter and found use for his talent outside of the shop. In 1878 there came to Mr. Lillie the lure of nature and a desire to go back to the soil. Accordingly he and his family started across the prairies with team and a covered wagon, to locate in Gage county. His farm was in Section 1, Elm township, but he lived only one year after his arrival. He was a well known member of the Masonic fraternity. Upon his death his widow, Mrs. Maria Lillie, was left with her children in a strange country and among strangers, but she remained to see them all grown to maturity and established in homes of their own. She was born in Pennsylvania, in 1832, and died in 1898, aged sixty-five years. Three of her four children are living: Dexter Lillie, of McDonald, Kansas, owns in that locality an entire section of land and is well known as a breeder and grower of thoroughbred live stock; Stella is the wife of Fred Reynolds, who is employed in machine shops at Steele City, Nebraska; and Gladys is the widow of the subject of this memoir.

Mr. Davis took loyal interest in community affairs and was a Republican in politics. Mrs. Davis holds to the Lutheran faith and is a communicant of Trinity Lutheran church in the city of Beatrice.

FERNANDO HOYLE, a successful farmer of Logan township, was born in Dupage county, Illinois, September 15, 1872. His parents, William and Sarah (Mommart) Hoyle, were natives of Pennsylvania. His father was born in 1827 and died in Gage county, Nebraska, in 1891. His mother was born in 1831 and died in Gage county, Nebraska, in 1911. William Hoyle moved from Pennsylvania to Illinois many years ago and in 1876 came to Gage county, Nebraska, with his family, in a covered wagon. He settled in Midland township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land and later eighty acres additional, all of which he owned at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle were the parents of ten children, six of whom are now living: Mary, wife of S. T. Turner, of South Dakota; Ezra, of Beatrice; Fannie, wife of Isaac Stewart, of Alvin, Texas; Fernando, of Beatrice; Ira, of Oklahoma; and Emory, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Fernando Hoyle was educated in the public schools of Gage county. He has always followed farming, renting land for several years. Some years ago he purchased eighty acres of land in Midland township, but this he later sold, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Section 32, Logan township. This farm he has improved, building a good house, barn and other farm buildings.

In 1898 Mr. Hoyle was united in marriage to Miss Grance Hileman, a native of Tecumseh, Johnson county, Nebraska. Mrs. Hoyle was born February 24, 1876, and is the daughter of Milton and Delphine (Hudson) Hileman.

Milton Hileman was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Indiana many years ago and from there to Illinois, whence he later came to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Hileman now make their home in Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Hoyle became the parents of five children, three of whom are living: Theodore, born March 4, 1904; Vivian, born February 13, 1908; and Evelyn, born March 19, 1914. Roland and Eunice are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hoyle is a Republican. He served as clerk of Logan township two years and has been a member of the school board for the past nine years. He is a very successful farmer — one who by honesty, economy, and hard work has prospered.

HENRY ESSAM, a farmer of Riverside township, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, April 13, 1861, and is a son of James Essam, a sketch of whom is to be found elsewhere in this volume.

Henry Essam attended school in Fulton and Schuyler counties, Illinois, and later in Gage county, Nebraska. He came to Nebraska with his parents when a youth of nineteen years and remained at home until 1887, when he went to Colorado, where he took a pre-emption claim. After proving up on this land he returned to Gage county, Nebraska, and farmed his father's land. In 1902 Mr. Essam bought eighty acres on Section 1, Riverside township. This land was at one time owned by Rev. A. L. Tinkham, a pioneer Methodist preacher who came to the county at a very early date. On this farm Mr. Tinkham built a small house of hand-hewed timber and native lumber, and the building is still standing. Mr. Essam has greatly improved the farm, has built a new house and other buildings and now owns one hundred and ninety-eight acres of land.

Henry Essam married Miss Josie Curry, of Schuyler county, Illinois, and to them was born one daughter, Susan, who is the wife of Roy Barnard, a prosperous farmer in Midland township.

Mr. and Mrs. Essam are members of the Christian church. In politics Mr. Essam is a Democrat, and he has been a member of the school board for several years. He is one of Gage county's good, substantial farmers, and through his own efforts and the assistance of a good wife he has been blessed with prosperity.

JAMES R. C. FIELD. — The history of the city of Beatrice would be incomplete without due recognition of the men who have been its public servants. The man who is specially fitted by temperament and education to fill a position of public trust, creditably and approved by all, is a rare one, but when he does fill his office with a high degree of efficiency the public shows its appreciation by re-electing him to the same position. This efficiency has been demonstrated by James Field, as he has been a familiar figure in the city hall of Beatrice for many years.

Mr. Field is a descendant of the staunch and sturdy men who came over in the Mayflower and gave to the world their ideas of freedom, both religiously and economically, and who fought that democracy might live. He was born in Branford, Connecticut, July 12, 1844, and is a son of Danford and Lucretia (Griswold) Field. Danford Field was born in Killingworth, Connecticut, in 1805. In his youth he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed until he took up farming.

His death, in 1891, in Connecticut, was the end of a long, useful life of eighty-six years. His wife died in 1876, at the age of sixty-six years. They were the parents of thirteen children, three of whom are living, namely: Virginia, of Clifton Springs, New York; Harriet, widow of Elmer Hurst, at one time a very prominent lawyer of Rock Island, Illinois; and James R. C., with whom this sketch directly deals.

James R. C. Field received his early education in Branford, Connecticut, and as a boy helped his father on the farm. For two years previously to 1866, when he came west to Rock Island, Illinois, he clerked in a store. Upon his arrival in Rock Island he drove a notion wagon and he was so successful in his work that for nine years he continued in this enterprise. At the end of that time he was employed in his uncle's store, where he remained until his coming to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1883. He purchased land in Glenwood township but lived at Odell, Nebraska, from which place he was able to conduct his farming operations. In 1890 he removed to Beatrice, and since then has continuously made his home here and been intimately associated with civic affairs.

In October, 1874, Mr. Field was united in marriage to Jennie E. Campbell, who was born January 21, 1853, and is a daughter of W. L. and Martha A. Campbell. Of this union five children were born: Bert C. is a traveling salesman, living at Sterling, Colorado; Charles A. is engaged in the manufacture of gasoline engines, at Jackson, Michigan; Martha is the wife of Ellsworth Jones, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Harry C. died April 28, 1897; and Jennie M. died in infancy.

Mr. Field is a Republican voter and he is noted for his integrity and upright conduct in every official capacity in which he has served his fellow men. He has been a member of the city council and the school board, and he was the city water commissioner from 1904 to 1911. He faithfully served in this capacity and then was elected city commissioner. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In the latter organization he has held every office in his local lodge.

HARVEY M. SMETHERS, of Beatrice, was born in Lee county, Illinois, March 15, 1863. The sketch of his brother, P. J. Smethers, elsewhere in this volume, gives due data concerning the family.

Harvey M. Smethers received his education in Illinois and after coming to Nebraska he attended the public schools of Gage county. In 1885 he located in Beatrice, this county, where he clerked in a store for one year. He engaged in the general merchandise business with W. J. Dunnick, under the firm name of Smethers & Dunnick. After a short time Mr. Dunnick sold his interest in the business to A. H. Brubaker, and the business continued in the name of Smethers & Brubaker for one year, when Mr. Smethers sold his interest in the enterprise and engaged in farming. He continued farming operations only a short time and then returned to Beatrice and entered the hardware and implement business. Later he engaged in the pump and wind-mill business, which he later sold, and thereafter he was employed by the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company for many years, as traveling salesman. Upon severing his connection with the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company, Mr. Smethers went to Wyoming, where he was engaged in drilling for oil, for about two years. He then returned to Beatrice and became manager of the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company's retail department, which position he has occupied for the past twelve years.

In December, 1887, Mr. Smethers was united in marriage to Margaret Rosella Dunnick, daughter of George F. Dunnick, a farmer in Kansas, where Mrs. Smethers was born. Mr. Dunnick later came to Nebraska and resided in Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Smethers became the parents of three children: Lillian Eunice is the wife of Clyde A. Scott, of Omaha, Nebraska; Bertha Grace died in childhood; and Harvey Donald died at the age of ten years. The wife and mother passed away in 1891. In 1893 Mr. Smethers

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM WOLLENBURG

wedded Alda Millie Randall, daughter of Charles Randall, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and who came to the west and settled in Kansas many years ago: there he engaged in farming and later he came to Nebraska, where he now makes his home in Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Smethers have no children. They are members of the Christian church and Mr. Smethers is a Democrat in his political allegiance.

J. M. BURNHAM. — For thirty-four years the subject of this record has been editor and publisher of *The Wymorean*, at Wymore, Gage county.

He is a native of Ogdensburg, New York, and is a son of C. A. and Mary J. (Ellison) Burnham, also natives of the Empire state. The father loyally defended the Stars and Stripes as a soldier for three years in the Civil war, and was promoted to the rank of captain. After the war he became a resident of Monona county, Iowa, where he became an extensive dealer in cattle. His last days were spent in Wymore, Gage county, Nebraska, where he had lived retired after 1882. His wife is still living and is making her home with her son J. M., of this review.

J. M. Burnham received his education in the schools of Iowa. In 1882 he came to Wymore and began his newspaper career, being employed first on the *Leader*, and later on the *Wymore Reporter*. He associated himself with *The Wymorean* when that paper started and, as above stated, has edited and published it for the past thirty-four years.

The Wymorean is published weekly and its owner enjoys a liberal patronage from the people of Wymore and surrounding territory. The office of *The Wymorean* is equipped with a full complement of printing material for a general job-printing business and the ordinary modern inventions connected with the "art preservative."

Mr. Burnham married Miss Luella R. Ake, of Muscatine, Iowa, and they are the parents of one son, E. M.

Mr. Burnham is a Republican in politics, and however much he may differ in views with the readers of his paper in political sentiment, all are compelled to acknowledge and respect and sincerity of its principles.

WILLIAM WOLLENBURG. — The late William Wollenburg, whose death occurred on the 22d of December, 1915, was a young man when he came with his wife from Wisconsin to Gage county, more than forty years ago, and here his sterling character and productive ability made him a valued factor in the furtherance of social and industrial progress. He became one of the successful agriculturists and stock-growers of Blakely township, was influential in the communal life, commanded unqualified popular esteem, and achieved large and worthy success, his widow and two of his children now maintaining their residence on his old homestead farm in the township mentioned.

Mr. Wollenburg was born in Brandenburg, Germany, June 14, 1850, a son of Christian and Ricka (Holmichal) Wollenburg, of whose nine children he was the fifth in order of birth: of the children three daughters and one son are now living. Mr. Wollenburg acquired his early education in the schools of his native land and was a youth of seventeen years when he came with his parents to America, the family home being established in Wisconsin, where his father and mother pased the remainder of their lives. After his marriage William Wollenburg continued his activities as a farmer in Wisconsin until 1877, when he came with his wife to Gage county, Nebraska, and established his residence on the farm where his widow now lives — the northeast quarter of Section 4, Blakely township. This now well improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres he purchased at the rate of ten dollars an acre, and in a conservative way the valuation at the present time is fully one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. The land was raw prairie at the time when he acquired the same and with the passing years he made the best of improvements on the property, including the erection of the substantial buildings and the setting out of many fine trees that are now of goodly size. As a citizen Mr. Wol-

lenburg manifested his stewardship in liberality and progressiveness, supported generously educational and religious activities and took loyal interest in public affairs of a local order. He was a zealous communicant of the Lutheran church, as is also his widow, and he aided generously in the erection of two churches of this denomination in Blakely township. That distinctive success attended his well ordered endeavors is shown in the fact that at his death he was the owner of a landed estate of six hundred and forty acres, a portion of which is in Jefferson county. He was a specially progressive farmer, a leader in community affairs, and upon retiring from his farm, in 1909, he removed with his wife to Plymouth, Jefferson county, where he had purchased an attractive residence property and where he became a substantial stockholder in the Plymouth State Bank. There he remained until his death, after which his widow returned to Gage county and established her home on her present fine farm.

In the year 1874 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wollenburg to Miss Wilhelmina Mayer, who was born in Wurtemburg, Germany, October 18, 1848, a daughter of Jacob and Katherine (Schmidt) Meyer. She came with her parents to the United States in 1860 and the family home was established in Dodge county, Wisconsin, where the parents passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Wollenburg is the youngest of the three children, her brother, Charles, being now a resident of Kay county, Oklahoma, and her sister, Reicka, being the wife of Philip Boller, of Dodge county, Wisconsin. Jacob Meyer was born July 18, 1788, and his death occurred in 1875. By his first marriage he became the father of three children, — Jacob, Louis and Katherine, all of whom are deceased and the last named of whom was the wife of Frank Kuhn. The second wife, Katherine, mother of Mrs. Wollenburg, was born in 1805, and passed to the life eternal in 1867. In conclusion of this brief memoir is given the following record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Wollenburg: Helena is the wife of Michael Esch, a farmer near McCook, Redwillow county, Nebraska; William is a representative farmer of Jefferson county; Minnie is the wife of Daniel Esch, a prosperous farmer near Hoag, Gage county; Carl is conducting successful farm enterprise in Blakely township; Clara remains with her widowed mother; Mary is the wife of Joseph Scheve, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Henry has the active charge of the old home farm, where he resides with his mother and his sister Clara, all being active members of the Lutheran church and all popular in the social life of the community.

GEORGE F. HARPSTER. — The state of Pennsylvania includes the land deeded to William Penn when King Charles of England owed him such a large debt he could pay it no other way. This transaction also afforded a means of getting rid of a bothersome sect, the Quakers, or members of the Society of Friends, who were getting altogether too powerful in England. King Charles believed he was sending away only the scum of his empire to the New World, but no better blood and better citizens have come to people our shores than the Quakers who settled in Pennsylvania. From this line of sturdy folk came the forbears of George Harpster, who was born in Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa, October 14, 1858. His parents, Frederick and Mary A. (Yarger) Harpster, were both natives of Pennsylvania and their parents in turn were born in Pennsylvania. Frederick Harpster was the son of George Harpster, whose birthplace was the forenamed state and who eventually secured and farmed government land in Seneca county, Ohio. The perilous journey to the Buckeye state was made on foot, and the family drove their cattle ahead of them. They started with a number of milch cows, but ere they arrived they had only one cow as an adjunct in starting their farming operations. We can see from this incident what a perilous journey it was. George Harpster and his good wife spent the rest of their lives on their land in Seneca county, Ohio, where they were laid to rest.

Frederick Harpster, the father of George F. Harpster, was born in the Keystone state and endured the hardships of pioneer life in Ohio. It was in that state that he married Mary A. Yarger, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of G. F. and Benivel Yarger, whose migrations were from their birthplace in Pennsylvania to Ohio and thence to Indiana, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Yarger was a tailor, and plied his trade at Carey, Ohio, but farmed after his removal to Indiana.

In 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Harpster moved to Knoxville, Iowa, where he followed his trade, that of tinner, and later he moved to Glasgow, Iowa, where he was employed in the same way. It was here, in 1862, that he died. Two children, Mrs. George Harris, and George F., the subject of this sketch, were his only children. The second marriage of Mrs. Harpster was to Casper Zerman and the two surviving children of this marriage are Frank, who is employed by a publishing firm in Toledo, Ohio; and Flora, wife of A. L. Taylor, a harnessmaker living in New York. Their mother is making her home with them.

After the death of his father George F. Harpster lived with his mother and stepfather until 1871, when he came to Blue Springs, Nebraska. From Marysville, Kansas, the journey was made in the old-fashioned double-teamed stage. Mr. Harpster remained two years on the farm in Gage county and then went to Ohio, where he remained until 1880, when he again came to Blue Springs, where for fourteen years he was employed by the Roderick Brothers in their general merchandise store. He then engaged in business for himself, for five years, being thus established at Glenwood, Iowa. With three hundred dollars to start on in the way of money, but with a good deal of energy and self-reliance, Mr. Harpster purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land near Blue Springs in 1890, and to this he has added from time to time until he now has two hundred and eighty-five acres. He has continued to prosper and has now a nice home, with commodious buildings on his farm, close to the city of Blue Springs.

In 1881 the marriage of Mr. George Harpster and Ida Miller was solemnized. She is a daughter of John and Electa (Shattuck) Miller, natives respectively of Germany and Vermont: they were married in Waukon, Iowa, and in 1882 homesteaded in South Dakota, where they remained until their death and where they are both laid to rest. Mrs. Harpster was born in Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa, July 6, 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Harpster have three children: Myrtle is at home with her parents; Bert is living at Dawson, Nebraska; and Leafy is the wife of Perry Schoenholz, of St. Paul, Minnesota, where he formerly was employed as superintendent of a bakery, but is now the manager of the Puritan Milk Company.

Mr. Harpster is affiliated with the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, while he and his wife are both members of the Order of the Eastern Star and members of the Presbyterian church. His political views are in harmony with the principles of the Republican party, he is a valued citizen and is definitely worthy of the title of self-made man.

WENDEL KNOCHEL is a prosperous farmer of Lincoln township, where he is farming three hundred and twenty acres of land, in Sections 23 and 24. Mr. Knochel was born November 21, 1859, in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Michael and Mary (Bage) Knochel. They were both born in Germany and they both came to this country two or three years before their marriage. They were married in Erie county, Pennsylvania, where they lived, tilling the soil, until 1871, when they removed to Logan county, Illinois. The rich, fertile lands of Nebraska attracted them, and in 1880 they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lincoln township, Gage county. Michael Knochel spent the remainder of his days at this home, and his death occurred June 11, 1912. His wife, who was born in 1831, survives him, being now eighty-seven years old. She resides at Beatrice, and is a member of the Catholic church, as was also her husband.

The year 1880, when Mr. and Mrs. Michael

Knochel came to Gage county, their oldest son, Wendel, had just passed his majority. He helped his parents on the farm until his marriage to Elizabeth Eckstein, which occurred September 23, 1896. She was born in Rulo, Richardson county, Nebraska, June 24, 1866. Her parents, Henry and Christina (Rieff) Eckstein, were natives of Germany. Henry Eckstein was seventeen and his future wife, Christina Rieff, was eight years old when they left Germany. They were married in Indiana, and came to Rulo, Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1865. Mr. Eckstein plied his trade as a carpenter until his death. Three children were born to this union — Henry, Jacob, and Elizabeth, and Jacob is now a successful farmer in Elm township, Gage county. After the death of Mr. Eckstein, which occurred in 1866, his widow returned to Indiana, where she married Theophilus Van Hessche, a widower with two daughters. To this union seven children were born. Mrs. Eckstein-Van Hessche died July 18, 1911.

Mr. Knochel devotes his entire time to his farming and is ever ready for the newest and best ways of doing things. By his marriage two children, Grace and Clement, have come to bless his home. Mr. Knochel and his family are members of the Catholic church. In politics he votes the Democratic ticket.

ANTON BEZA. — There seems to be a law of continuity of events that brings members of the same foreign nation to certain portions of a state or county in America. There is a continuity of relationships that brings these people to one spot. The people from Bohemia have settled in great numbers near and in Odell, Nebraska, and it is to be supposed that the law forenamed has had much to do to draw one after the other of the same nationality to this favored portion of Gage county.

Anton Beza, a general merchant of Odell, Nebraska, is a son of Bohemian parents. He was born May 27, 1891, in Ashton, Sherman county, Nebraska. His parents, Vincent and Mary (Suchanek) Beza, have lived in Nebraska for nearly forty years, having emigrated from their birthplace in Bohemia. Vincent Beza was born in 1857 and all of these years has plied his trade of wagonmaker, learned in the homeland. His wife was born in 1867 and thus on the date of her marriage, in 1883, she was only sixteen years of age. They were married in St. Paul, Nebraska, and five children have been born of this union. The children have all received liberal educational advantages, in the city of Ashton, Nebraska. Two of the sons entered the service of the United States, ready to give of their life blood, if need be, to protect the land and principles of their adoption, in connection with the great world war. Vincent F. is a merchant in Bellwood, Nebraska; Marie L. is clerking in a department store at Fullerton, Nebraska; Leon R., of the United States medical corps at Camp Funston, Kansas, was recently discharged on account of physical disability; Anton is the subject of this sketch; Alphonso is on the United States dreadnought "North Dakota," now located "somewhere across the seas."

Anton Beza received his education in the Ashton public schools and was graduated from the high school in 1904. He has since lived the life of the average American youth. First he clerked for two years in Ashton; then he went from place to place, clerking in different stores. The little city of Filley, where he worked for Mr. E. W. Starlin, was one of the places he was thus employed previously to his finding the place and the conditions that so pleased him as to lead him to make a permanent location and establish himself in business. He first opened a grocery store in Odell, but he has added to his store until now he includes general merchandise.

The marriage of Mr. Beza to Eleanor (Singleton) Porter was solemnized September 29, 1913. One daughter, Velma M., aged three years and six months (1918), has come to bless their home. Mrs. Beza was born July 5, 1882, in Glenwood township, this county, and is a daughter of John W. and Sarah F. Singleton. (See history of this family in another portion of this volume.) Her first marriage, to Porter Collins, was in 1903, and

two children were born to them — Esther, aged thirteen years, and Dorothy, aged eleven years. These two little girls are in the home of their stepfather and are receiving their education at Odell.

Mr. and Mrs. Beza attend the Methodist church. Mr. Beza is a member of a Western Brotherhood Association of Bohemians, known as the Z. C. B. J. He is a Democrat in politics.

WILLIAM T. DAY has proved himself one of the resolute and self-reliant men who can master opposing forces in life and wrest from the hands of fate a goodly measure of success and prosperity, the while ordering a course in such a way as to merit and receive the confidence and good will of men. Mr. Day has been a resident of Gage county since the year 1887 and has here accumulated through his own ability and efforts one of the fine farm properties of the county. He was left an orphan when he was only three years of age and has made his own way in life since he was a lad of ten years. It may well be understood that under such conditions his early educational advantages were limited, but his alert mind and determined purpose have enabled him to overcome largely this youthful handicap, for he has profited greatly from the lessons learned in the stern school of experience. He is one of the representative exponents of farm industry in Barnston township and is a citizen who fully merits recognition in this history.

William T. Day was born near Fredericks-town, Missouri, on the 1st of March, 1863, and is a son of Charles and Sarah Ann (McCrary) Day. Charles Day was a native of the state of Pennsylvania and became a resident of Missouri prior to the Civil war. He was a farmer in Missouri and had previously owned land and been engaged in agricultural pursuits in Tennessee, where he resided a number of years and where he became the owner of a number of slaves. He was a Democrat in politics and he and his wife held membership in the Baptist church, he having passed the closing year of his life in Missouri and his wife having died in Tennessee. They became the parents of six children and of the number the subject of the review is the only one living in Nebraska.

William T. Day was taken as a child from Missouri to Tennessee, the former home of his parents, and there he was reared to adult age, his educational advantages, as previously stated, having been somewhat meager. He early learned the dignity and value of honest toil and became one of the world's productive workers while he was still a youth. In 1887 Mr. Day came to Gage county, Nebraska, and at the time of his arrival in this state his capitalistic resources were represented in the sum of only one hundred dollars. There is a generous measure of lesson and incentive in the record of his achievement since that time, for he has pressed steadily forward and has reached the goal of independence and substantial prosperity. In Barnston township he is now the owner of the fine Riverside Ranch, which comprises two hundred and fifty-three acres and is one of the splendidly improved and valuable farm properties of Gage county, the place being devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising and feeding of cattle and hogs, of which Mr. Day makes appreciable market shipments each year. The beautiful family home is a throughly modern house that was erected by Mr. Day in the year 1915, on the banks of the Blue river, and the other farm buildings are of excellent order, the home farm being in Section 12 of the township mentioned.

In furthering his individual advancement and success Mr. Day has also been mindful of his civic responsibilities and has given his co-operation in the advancing of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party but he has not been a seeker of public office of any kind. He is a member of the Baptist church and his wife is a member of the Methodist church but as there are no churches of these denominations in their home district they attend and support the Presbyterian church.

In May, 1884, was solemnized the marriage

WILLIAM T. DAY AND FAMILY

of Mr. Day to Miss Sarah Harman, who was born in Claiborne county, Tennessee, on the 9th of January, 1868. Of this union have been born fourteen children, and of the number all are living except three: Lulu is a popular teacher in the village schools at Adams; Julia is the wife of Byron Saylors, of Rosalie, Thurston county; Charles is a successful farmer in Gage county; William L. was residing at University Place, this state, at the time when he entered the United States navy, for service in the great European war; Jesse was a student at Iowa College, Grinnell, Iowa, but in the spring of 1918 he too became a member of the United States navy, he being stationed at the time of this writing at the training quarters at Charleston, South Carolina; John, Silas and Roy and Ray (twins) are at the parental home; Leona died at the age of thirteen years; Darline and Estelle are at home and are attending school; Henry E. died at the age of fourteen months; and one child died in infancy.

J. W. BRIDENTHAL. — When Gage county land was fast being peopled by the farmers coming from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and various other eastern states, as well as foreign countries, a family by the name of Bridenthal came and set up their home in our midst. Of J. W. Bridenthal, the head of this family, it was said: "Of the countless numbers who have gone to settle up the new west few have been more enthusiastic, more thoroughly absorbed with the thought that they were working for the future as well as for their own interests than has the gentleman of whom mention is here made." As the years have progressed it would seem that this were a prophecy of a life purpose fulfilled — a life which has so lately been drawn to a close.

J. W. Bridenthal was born at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, April 28, 1836, and died December 7, 1917. In 1845 the parents of Mr. Bridenthal left their farming interests in Pennsylvania and removed to Wayne county, Ohio, where he received the education the locality and period afforded. In comparison with the opportunities of to-day, these were meager indeed. In his early manhood he started a slow process of getting farther and farther west, being located in different counties of Indiana and Illinois, and in 1884 he made his last removal, arriving in Gage county on the 4th of April that year.

In Warren county, Illinois, where he had lived from 1860 until his coming to Gage county in 1884, he met the companion of his many useful and happy years. This companion, who was Miss Eleanor Butler, was born in Plymouth, Marshall county, Indiana. Her parents, Isaac and Ann L. (Jones) Butler, were natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania respectively. Their married life commenced in Ohio, and after there continuing to make their home for some time, they moved to Indiana. Later, in 1864, they removed to Warren county, Illinois. In this county they passed the remainder of their lives and there both were laid to rest.

The marriage of J. W. Bridenthal and Miss Eleanor Butler was solemnized at Plymouth, Marshall county, Indiana, on the 26th of October, 1860, and for over fifty-seven years their lives were spent in happy companionship. Six children were born to them, four of whom are living, as follows: Lake, a farmer residing in Wymore, was for some years a banker in the city of Wymore, one of the most attractive in Gage county; Mae, the wife of C. W. Robertson, who for twenty-five years operated a dry-goods and grocery store in Wymore, is now living at Lincoln, this state; Charles, a traveling salesman for the great wholesale house of Sprague, Warner & Company, of Chicago, resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Richard, for many years an employe of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company, married Mary Owens and resides in Wymore, their one child being Kenneth D.

When Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bridenthal arrived in Gage county they purchased land in Sicily township and there they continued their farming operations until 1904, when they moved to Wymore, where Mrs. Bridenthal still makes her home. Mr. Bridenthal voted the Democratic ticket and for a number of

years served his community as county supervisor, he having been for some time the chairman of the county board of supervisors. His life was an exceptionally unselfish one, and its greatest distinction was that he was always thinking of others and not how much he could get by giving the minimum in return. Such a life leaves its benignant impress upon many loving friends and relatives, as well as upon the community in general.

NORTON S. CALLAND — War is sometimes inevitable, and cruel and heartless as its ravages are known to be, it is sometimes the only resort by which the rights of a people can be protected and maintained. When the cause is in and for the right, then to participate in it becomes most honorable and praiseworthy. We have always taken great pleasure in giving credit where credit is due, and we never fail to recognize and appreciate the immeasureable honor due to those whose valor gained for us the national integrity which we now enjoy. In the gentleman whose name introduces this record we find another one of those brave and valiant men who went forth in defense of the Union in the climacteric period of the Civil war and whom it is our delight to honor.

Mr. Calland is a native of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Noble county, Ohio, May 7, 1845. His parents were Robert and Nancy (Caple) Calland, the former of whom was born in Scotland and the latter in Ireland. They were among the early settlers of Noble county, Ohio, where the father took up a homestead and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Robert Calland was twice married and became the father of fourteen children — ten by the first marriage and four by the second. He was a local preacher in the Wesleyan church, but after the war he became identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a Republican in politics and served as justice of the peace for twenty years. He was a successful man and owned four hundred acres of land. The paternal grandparents of Norton S. Calland died in Ohio and the maternal grandfather, Nathaniel Caple, also passed away in Noble county, Ohio.

Norton S. Calland spent the days of his boyhood on a farm in his native county and acquired his education in the schools of Summerfield. He was only a boy when the dark cloud gathered and the Civil war broke upon the nation. Watching the course of events, his patriotic spirit was aroused, and in August, 1862, though not yet eighteen years of age, he enlisted in Company D, Ninety-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and for two years and ten months he followed the flag in defense of the Union. Among the many engagements in which this regiment participated, some of the more important ones were those of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. Mr. Calland was with Sherman when the famous "march to the sea" was inaugurated. After leaving Atlanta Mr. Calland was detailed on a foraging campaign, and while thus engaged and detached from the Union army, he was captured by the enemy, March 3, 1864. He was held a prisoner until the 2d of the following April. He spent twenty-one days in Salisbury Prison and seven days in Libby Prison. The horrors of those pens have never been exaggerated. The suffering was awful, unmitigated by a gleam of humanity on the part of their captors, and made the lives of the weary victims a wretched mockery. Nauseous food, impure water, crowded and vermin-infested quarters, contributed to disease and death, which took away many a valiant Union soldier. Mr. Calland was fortunate enough to be held but a short time. After serving his country two years and ten months he returned to his native county and took up the peaceful pursuit of farming.

In March, 1870, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Calland and Miss Sarah M. Houston, a native of New York state. Their home has been blessed by the birth of seven children, six of whom are living — Cora, a widow, residing in Spokane, Washington; Charles, a railroad employe at San Francisco, California; Kirby, a large land-owner in South Dakota; Edward, a farmer of Gage county; Alma, the wife of Perry Black, of

Grand Island, Nebraska; and Mabel, the wife of John Greenwood, of Parsons, Kansas.

In 1882 Mr. Calland came to Nebraska and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in Highland township, and until 1897 he devoted his energies to the improvement and cultivation of this tract. He conducted his agricultural operations on a very large scale, as he leased two thousand acres of land and became one of the most extensive farmers of Gage county. He met with marked success, and in 1897 he retired to Beatrice, where he has since made his home.

The religious views of Mr. Calland coincide with the teachings of the Methodist church, of which he is a member. In politics he has always been a Republican.

Mr. Calland is one of those who can doubly appreciate the patriotism manifested by the young men of America at the present time, when they are giving themselves earnestly to making up the fine national army for the country's participation in the great European war. This attitude can but recall vividly to his mind the time when, as a boy of seventeen, he subordinated all personal interests to respond to the call of patriotism, by tendering his services in defense of the Union. To these men of to-day, as to the boys of 1861 to 1865, the country owes a debt of gratitude it can never repay.

ARTHUR GRONE. — The story of Arthur Grone's early life is definitely connected with that of his father, John Grone, who was born in Bremen, Germany, October 14, 1824. John Grone sailed from that land of many Germanic states, with as many rulers and oppressors, to the free land of the United States, which is united under one chosen ruler, the president. He was a lad of fourteen when, in company with an aunt, he landed in New York city. During the next eight years he spent his time in learning the language and customs of the new land. He was for some time an apprentice to a tailor. In 1846 this fearless young man made his way to the wilds of Wisconsin. Amongst her virgin forests the bear and the wolf were stalking their prey, the deer blithely fleeing from an imaginary foe; but the advent of the settlers soon struck terror to these denizens of the forest. Mr. Grone participated in many a chase of the deer and bear, bearing them triumphantly to his home. Only one other white settler was in the valley where he lived: the other inhabitants of those parts were the Indians, who still lived in their tepees and followed their nomadic ways. Among these surroundings of nature in her purity and strength, Mr. Grone reared a family of fourteen children. The mother of this large and interesting family was Wilhelmina (Albertus) Grone, who was born in Germany, August 11, 1835, and who came to the United States when a young girl. She was her husband's companion and helpmeet for many years, and the gracious ties were broken only by death.

John Grone removed with his family to Iowa in 1874, and in 1886 they came to farm in Fillmore county, Nebraska. The farming activities of Mr. and Mrs. John Grone covered nearly a half-century and were brought to a close in 1894, when they retired and moved to Bruning, Thayer county, Nebraska, where the death of Mrs. Grone occurred, August 14, 1906. Mr. Grone passed away October 9, 1917, at a patriarchal age.

Arthur Grone was born in Sauk county, Wisconsin, August 1, 1867, and was the tenth in order of birth of the fourteen children born to his parents. He was a young man upon his arrival with his parents in Nebraska. He spent the following twenty years farming different rented tracts of land, in different localities, the last tract of land thus rented having been owned by his father, in Fillmore county. It was here he made a good start toward the success shown in his ownership of his present fine landed estate. He purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Elm township, Gage county, in 1906, and in the following year he came to make his home on these broad acres. He has remodeled his house and barn to meet the needs of his home and his farming operations. He is raising high-grade Poland-China hogs, which, when put upon the market, will bring two dollars

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM J. DOBBS

for every dollar's worth of corn he has fed them.

Mr. Grone was married September 18, 1889, to Frances J. Clark, who was born December 17, 1871, in Macedonia, Pottawattamie county, Iowa. Her parents, Ellis P. and Mary E. (Cisna) Clark, were born in Kentucky and Ohio respectively. The father was born in 1838 and died May 24, 1913. The mother was born in 1852 and died July 22, 1900, in Hebron, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Clark went to Iowa during the great Chicago fire of 1871. From 1886 to 1889 they farmed in Norton county, Kansas, and they then moved to Thayer county, Nebraska. After several other changes they finally adopted Nebraska as their home, and here their death occurred. They were the parents of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Grone have four children: Alma M. is the wife of E. Dougherty, living in Bruning, Nebraska; Florence is the wife of L. Richardson, of Elm township, Gage county; and Frank and Violet L. remain at the parental home.

Mr. Grone is a Democrat in politics and has served as road overseer. He is affiliated with the Woodmen and his wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM J. DOBBS, who is living retired in the city of Beatrice, is a representative of one of the most prominent and honored territorial pioneer families of this section of Nebraska and proper review of the family history is given on other pages, both in a specific way and in connection with the general history of the county, prepared by Hugh J. Dobbs, a younger brother of the subject of this review. The family home was established in Gage county in the early territorial days and the name of Dobbs, as represented in the various generations, has been one indicative of large and benignant influence in the annals of Gage county. Thus it is specially gratifying to be able to incorporate in this volume an individual, though necessarily brief, review of the career of William J. Dobbs, who was a lad of eleven years at the time the family home was established in Gage county, — nearly sixty years ago.

Mr. Dobbs was born in Taney county, Missouri, April 16, 1848, a son of Fidillo H. and Mary Jane (Shullenbarger) Dobbs, concerning whom proper record is given elsewhere in this work. Mr. Dobbs gained his rudimentary education in Missouri and, as before stated, was eleven years of age at the time of the family immigration to Nebraska Territory, in 1859. He was reared to manhood under the conditions and influences of the pioneer farm of the frontier, his father having obtained land in Rockford township, Gage county, and having there instituted the reclamation and development of a farm at a time when settlers were few and widely separated and when Indians were still much in evidence in this section. William J. Dobbs attended the primitive schools maintained by the early settlers, and was signally favored in being reared in a home of refined influences. In 1868 he took up a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, in Rockford township, and with the passing years he well upheld the honors of the family name both as a successful farmer and as a broad-minded and progressive citizen. He developed one of the valuable farm properties of Gage county and remained on his old homestead until 1901, when he retired from the active labors and responsibilities that had so long been his portion. For three years thereafter he resided in the village of Blue Springs, and he then removed to the city of Beatrice, where he and his wife now occupy their beautiful home, at 1001 Market street, where they delight to welcome the hosts of friends they have drawn about them during their many years of residence in this county. Mr. Dobbs still owns a well improved landed estate of two hundred and sixty-nine acres in Gage county, and he long held precedence as one of the most aggressive and successful exponents of agricultural and livestock industry in Rockford township. Though he has had no ambition for public office of any kind he has been liberal in the support of measures and movements

advanced for the general good of his community and of the county, and has given his allegiance to the Republican party, both he and his wife having been for many years active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the year 1873 Mr. Dobbs wedded Miss Clara Richards, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania, a daughter of William and Jane (Trowbridge) Richards, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of West Virginia. In 1859 Mr. Richards came with his family to Nebraska Territory and he was numbered among the early settlers of Pawnee county, — a sterling pioneer who contributed his full quota to the development and progress of southeastern Nebraska. In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Dobbs: Dora is the wife of E. E. Tombaugh, of Hereford, South Dakota; Burton H. is a resident of Beloit, Wisconsin; Luella is the wife of Charles Cavett, of Blue Springs, Gage county; Kate is the wife of H. H. Dann, of Beatrice; Alice is at home; and Chester B. is in the United States Marine service, being at Paris Island at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1918.

DAVID H. MICHAEL. — The village of Liberty, Nebraska, has for its postmaster a man who has been very successful in his farming operations during his twenty years' residence in Gage county. Mr. Michael came from Warren county, Illinois, in which county he was born, October 24, 1852. His parents, David K. and Cynthia (Lieurance) Michael, were born in North Carolina and Ohio respectively. The parents of Mr. and Mrs. David K. Michael had migrated from their respective states and were early pioneers of Illinois, giving their lives in the reclaiming of the wild fertile lands to productivity. In their adopted state of Illinois these young people met and were joined in holy wedlock. In 1852 David K. Michael went to California, where he remained three years, but he discovered, as did many another, that the gold did not grow on the trees and that the soil of his adopted state, Illinois, would still yield her treasures of wheat and corn. Upon his return he purchased land, and he continued his farming pursuits the rest of his life. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Michael, left Illinois and moved to Missouri, arriving there during the great pro-slavery agitation in that state, before the Civil war, and there they passed the remainder of their lives.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. David K. Michael, three of whom survive them, as follows: David H., the subject of this review; Perry, a farmer in Pawnee county, Nebraska; and Douglas, likewise a resident of that county. The mother, Cynthia (Lieurance) Michael, was the daughter of Elijah and Eliza Lieurance, who had tilled the soil in Ohio prior to their removal to Warren county, Illinois.

David H. Michael made good use of his opportunities for education, for, after finishing his high-school work, he attended Abbingdon College, in Knox county, Illinois.

In 1874 Mr. Michael was united in marriage to Miss Angie Sailor, who was born May 8, 1853, in Knox county, Illinois. In the Buckeye state a home had been established by the union of Jeremiah and Priscilla (Mason) Sailor, who were natives of that state, but not content with their opportunities in their natal state they established their home in Knox county, Illinois. They were tillers of the soil and lived happy, useful lives, giving sons and daughters to the world to carry on the march of civilization.

Mr. and Mrs. David H. Michael have four children, all of whom received educational advantages fitting them for their duties in the world. The firstborn is Ethel, who is the wife of J. F. Spence, an employe in the government printing office, Washington, D. C.; Kathryn is assistant postmaster at Liberty, Nebraska; Mabel remains at the parental home; and Van D. is farming.

In 1892 Mr. Michael, with his wife and family, came to Pawnee county, Nebraska, and for a number of years he rented land, but the rich soil of Pawnee county soon gave such returns for his labor that he was enabled, in 1900, to purchase eighty acres of land in that

county. Later he added another eighty acres. He finally sold his land holdings in Pawnee county and moved to Missouri, but there he remained only a few months. Upon his return he purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Liberty township, Gage county, and he still retains the ownership of this property.

Mr. Michael has taken a keen interest in political affairs and is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. In 1915 he was appointed postmaster at Liberty and his second daughter is assistant postmaster. With his family he attends and supports the Christian church.

RUPERT C. PEARSON. — The life record of Rupert C. Pearson is one of varied activities and he is interested in and manager of the Adams Mercantile Company, in the thriving village of Adams. Mr. Pearson was born at Indianola, Iowa, August 7, 1859. His parents were Allen and Nancy (Henderson) Pearson, the former born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1819, and the latter born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1826. The father was a farmer until 1874, when he came to Nebraska and engaged in the hardware and lumber business at Sterling, Johnson county, where he remained until his death, in 1892. There his wife passed away, in 1882. They were the parents of thirteen children, six of whom are living.

Rupert C. Pearson was reared under the parental roof and after coming to Nebraska he attended school at Sterling for a short time, after which he became identified with his father's business. In 1878, he entered the hardware business on his own account, conducting the same for about nine years. In 1890 Mr. Pearson came to Adams, Nebraska, and bought grain for the Norcross & Wore Company. Later he engaged in mercantile business, and for a time he was cashier of the Farmers' State Bank. He was also interested in ranches in the western part of the state. For the benefit of his wife's health he moved to California, and there he was in the fruit business for a time. In 1913 he returned to Adams and assumed the management of the Adams Mercantile Company, with which he is still identified.

In November, 1884, Mr. Pearson married Miss Carrie Grey, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1855. She was the mother of one son, A. Grey Pearson, who has served four years in the marine corps in the service of his country. Mrs. Pearson was called to her final rest in 1914.

Mr. Pearson is a member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics is a Democrat. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America. In 1898 he enlisted in Company I, Second Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, and with the command he saw some months of service in the war with Spain. Mr. Pearson is a loyal, progressive citizen and has done much to advance the interests of his community. He has erected three residence properties in Adams, and any worthy cause has his endorsement.

HENRY H. SACHTLEBEN. — Among the prosperous farmers of Nemaha township, Gage county, mention should be made in this publication of Henry H. Sachtleben, who makes his home in Section 14 of that township. Mr. Sachtleben is the owner of nine hundred acres of land, all in Gage county, and all of this he has accumulated through his own efforts, having started life as a poor boy. Mr. Sachtleben was born September 16, 1853, in the province of Hanover, Germany, and is a son of John and Minnie (Mollman) Sachtleben. He is one of a family of six children, as follows: Wilhelmina Kramer, of whom record will be found on other pages of this volume; Henry H., of this review; Herman, of Menard, Illinois; Maggie, deceased; Mrs. Jennie Steinman, of Republic county, Kansas; and Lizzie, deceased wife of H. Penterman.

John Sachtleben was born in Germany, about 1839, and died in 1890. In 1868 he left Germany and came with his family to America. He settled in Illinois, where he passed the remainder of his life. His widow later came to Gage county, where she died in 1903, at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. and Mrs.

Sachtleben were members of the Lutheran church.

The subject of this review worked as a farm hand in Illinois, and attended school in that state. His father being a poor man, it became necessary for him to make his own way from his boyhood. In the spring of 1885 Mr. Sachtleben came to Nebraska and settled in Nemaha township, Gage county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Section 14, this being his present home farm. At the time of purchase only ninety acres of this land were under cultivation, and Mr. Sachtleben set to work improving the property, making extensive improvements on the land itself as well as by erecting new buildings, and from time to time he has bought more land until at the present time he is the owner of nine hundred acres of land in Gage county, all well improved. Mr. Sachtleben is numbered among the very successful farmers of the county. He is also interested as a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Companies at Cortland and Firth, Nebraska. He is also vice-president of the Firth Bank. In politics Mr. Sachtleben is an independent Democrat, and he and his family are members of the Lutheran church.

On March 8, 1883, occurred the marriage of Mr. Sachtleben to Miss Lizzie Vesselmann, who was born in Germany, January 20, 1862, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Middlekamp) Vesselmann, natives of Germany, where they passed their entire lives. Mrs. Sachtleben came to America in 1879 and settled in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Sachtleben are the parents of five children, as follows: John, a farmer in Nemaha township; Minnie, wife of C. Jutson, of Nemaha township; Harry, at home; Emma, wife of William Packard, living near Cortland, Nebraska; and Carl, at home.

GEOGRE W. SPIEGEL. — The metropolitan facilities of the city of Beatrice are definitely enhanced by the well ordered automobile garage and salesrooms of Mr. Spiegel, who has provided his establishment with the best equipped repair and service departments and who has developed a large and substantial business in the handling of the celebrated Overland automobiles, for which he is distributor in this section of the state, his annual business now showing an average aggregate of about five hundred thousand dollars and his establishment showing at all times a large assortment of the Overland cars, so that he is able to make quick deliveries in connection with sales. He has brought to bear in the enterprise a dynamic energy and progressiveness and is one of the most successful exponents of the automobile industry in southeastern Nebraska.

Mr. Spiegel was born in the city of Fort Dodge, Iowa, on the 4th of June, 1881, and is a son of Emil F. and Mary (Gunther) Spiegel, who were born and reared in Illinois, where their marriage was solemnized. In 1878 the father purchased a tract of land near Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he developed a valuable farm property and where he became a substantial and influential citizen. He is now living virtually retired in the city of Los Angeles, California, his wife having passed to the life eternal in April, 1916, a zealous communicant of the German Lutheran church, of which he also is an active adherent, his political allegiance, fortified by well ordered convictions, being given to the Republican party. Of the two children the subject of this review is the younger, and Edward W. is associated with the Peters Pump Company, of Kewanee, Illinois. Frederick Spiegel, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born and reared in Germany, where he learned the miller's trade. In 1865 he established his residence in Illinois, after having been compelled to borrow sufficient money to defray the cost of his voyage to America, and by his ability and well directed efforts he gained definite independence and prosperity, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives in Illinois.

Frederick Gunther, maternal grandfather of Mr. Spiegel, came from Germany to America and established his residence in Illinois in 1870. A mason by trade, he there turned his attention eventually to the manufacturing of

GEORGE W. SPIEGEL

brick, in which line of enterprise he was engaged eighteen years. In 1880 he engaged also in the manufacturing of pumps and windmills, at Kewanee, and from a small inception he developed this into one of the large and important manufacturing industries of that section of Illinois. He continued as the executive head of the business until his death and the large plant and business, basing operations upon a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, are still owned by the members of his family, the products of the factory being now shipped to all parts of the United States and Canada.

George W. Spiegel is indebted to the public schools of Kewanee, Illinois, for his early educational discipline, and there he was graudated in the high school, as a member of the class of 1898. Thereafter he was for ten years a traveling representative and salesman for a leading piano house, and within this period he efficiently covered territory in Illinois, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Kansas and Colorado, with an admirable record for successful salesmanship.

In 1908 Mr. Spiegel associated himself with the Wyllis-Overland Automobile Company by taking a position in its sales agency in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. There he remained until June, 1915, when he came to Beatrice and established his present agency for the same company. Mr. Spiegel is a young man of marked progressiveness and his activities along this line touch not only his own business but also mark his attitude as a loyal and public-spirited citizen. He is actively affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed the various official chairs, and he is a member also of the United Commercial Travelers' Association.

In 1907 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Spiegel to Miss Anna Monroe, who was born in the state of Wisconsin and who has the distinction of being a lineal descendant of James Monroe, fifth president of the United States. Mrs. Spiegel is a daughter of Rev. Michael Benson, who has been for more than half a century pastor of the First Methodist church at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and who, at the venerable age of seventy-eight years, is serving in 1917-18 as president of the Wisconsin Ministerial Association. Mr. and Mrs. Spiegel are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in their home city and are popular figures in the representative social activities of the community. They have one son, Frederick G., who was born in the year 1911.

JACOB HEYEN. — The people of Filley township have every reason to be proud of the fine farms that are to be found so plentifully scattered over its broad acres, and its reputation as an agricultural and stock-raising district is enviable. Among those who have done not a little to maintain a high standard in this respect is the subject of this sketch.

It was in 1904 that Mr. Heyen came to Gage county and purchased his present farm. It was originally known as the King farm, having been developed by Charles W. King, an early settler of Gage county. Mr. Heyen has erected a new house and new barns and has a very fine property, the farm consisting of two hundred and eighty acres.

Mr. Heyen is a native of Missouri, born in Atchison county, October 28, 1870. His parents were Heye J. and Grace (Folkerts) Heyen, natives of Germany. The mother is deceased. The father makes his home with a daughter in Gage county. Jacob Heyen is the oldest of four children, three of whom are living. A sister, Anna, is the wife of W. G. Cooper, residing in Nemaha township. His brother, Frank, resides in Atchison county, Missouri. One child, likewise named Frank, died in infancy.

Our subject was reared in his native county and acquired his education in the public schools. He followed mercantile pursuits in Langdon, Missouri, before coming to Gage county.

February 27, 1895, Mr. Heyen was united in marriage to Miss Hiebe Cooper, and of this union have been born five children. Their names are: George, Matilda, Juanita, Hermie, and Frank.

Mr. Heyen devotes his energies to general farming and stock-raising and is one of the

prosperous men of his adopted county. The family are members of the German Lutheran church and Mr. Heyen exercises his right of franchise in support of men and measures as advocated by the Democratic party.

GUY R. BRYSON is operating a farm in Adams township and is meeting with success. He is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Athens county, October 17, 1879. He is a son of David W. and Elizabeth (Border) Bryson. The father was born in Athens county, Ohio, February 1, 1837. During the Civil war he served in the home guards. He was a farmer all his life. In 1880 he came to Gage county and engaged in farming land where the town of Adams now stands. He passed away, in Adams township, September 17, 1882. Mr. Bryson was a member of the Methodist church. In 1856 he married Miss Elizabeth Border, who was born in Ohio, December 28, 1832. She now makes her home with her son Guy. She has reached the age of eighty-four years, is enjoying good health and finds employment and pleasure in piecing quilts. She became the mother of ten children, as follows: Lois, wife of Nat. Shaw, of Adams, Nebraska; Mrs. William E. Bryson, of University Place, Nebraska; Florence, deceased; Mrs. Mary Applebee, of Maryville, Missouri; Elmer A., of Chicago; Archibald C., of Adams; Herbert, of Lincoln, in the United States railway mail service; Harry, deceased; Mrs. Bertha Dixon, of Adams; and Guy R.

Guy R. Bryson came to Gage county with his parents when a child. He was reared on a farm and wisely chose agriculture as an occupation. On June 13, 1901, he married Miss Marie De Young, a native of Iowa, and a daughter of John and Clara (Post) De-Young, natives of Holland, and Iowa respectively. Mr. De Young came with his family to Nebraska in 1897, settling in Lancaster county. Later he conducted a hardware store in Adams, Gage county, and he and his wife are now residents of Emporia, Kansas. Mrs. Bryson attended the State Normal school at Peru, Nebraska, and followed the profession of teaching prior to her marriage. Mr. Bryson is meeting with success in his farming operations and readily gives his endorsement to those projects which have to do with the uplift of his community.

JOHN A. REULING. — When a truly able and gifted man finds his niche in the world of business and finance, his success is certain and definite. There is no miscalculation about his being adapted to his surroundings — a really successful person becomes more so when he has found the proper line of endeavor in which to exercise inherited and developed talents. Truly successful men are those who have studied themselves and their aptitudes, physical, mental, and moral, and when they have found their vocation they are successful in it because of their love for and knowledge of it. John A. Reuling, successful financier and business man, is one who has found his true potential and developed himself and his powers to the fullest extent.

John A. Reuling, president of the First National Bank of Wymore, was born in Muscatine, Iowa, August 23, 1866, a son of John A. and Louisa (Schnier) Reuling, both natives of Germany. John A. Reuling, Sr., came to the United States when a boy of fourteen years and located at Burlington, Iowa, where he learned the baker's trade and finally engaged in business. Later he moved to Muscatine, Iowa, where for many years he carried on a very successful business. The time that prosperity smiled upon him with no uncertain smile was when two railroads were being built through Muscatine and brought many laborers and artisans of every sort to the little village. The railroad service made the little village grow and prosper, and Mr. Reuling's business prospered accordingly. He had started at the lowest rung of the ladder and through persistent effort, hard work and snatching opportunity by the forelock, he retired from business with more than an ordinary competence.

In Iowa Mr. Reuling married Miss Louisa Schnier, who was born in Germany and who came to Iowa with her native-born German

parents. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Reuling, as follows: James R., a retired capitalist, living at Muscatine, Iowa; George W., a grocery merchant in Muscatine, Iowa; John A., subject of this sketch; Walter E., professor in the machinery department of the University of Michigan; Anna M., wife of J. W. Page, an assessor at Joplin, Missouri; Lucy E., wife of E. R. Reinement, in the dry-goods business at Muscatine; Nellie and Ella are single and live at Muscatine, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Reuling were members of the Lutheran church and the Democratic party received the vote of Mr. Reuling. He was a self-made man and a public-spirited citizen, who took a lively interest in all movements for civic betterment. He served on the Muscatine city council for some time. Both he and his wife died and were laid to rest at Muscatine, Iowa.

John A. Reuling, with whom this sketch deals, received his education in his native city and was there graduated from the high school in 1885. The first work Mr. Reuling tried after starting work for himself was in a commission house, but he did not remain long with this concern, his ambitions being along a different line. In his home town he was then employed by a successful jeweler, who taught him the trade, and for twenty years Mr. Reuling devoted his entire energies to this work. He was in Fort Scott, Kansas, for some time and then came to Wymore, Nebraska, in 1891, and started a jewelry store. This business he continued until 1910. In 1902 he became interested in the Wymore State Bank, of which corporation he was vice-president. When the institution was reorganized as a national bank and incorporated as the City National Bank, he was elected its president. In 1910 the City National Bank and the First National Bank corporations combined under the corporate name of First National Bank, and Mr. Reuling discontinued his jewelry business to devote his entire time to his banking business, as the president of the First National Bank. The building in which they did business was completely destroyed by fire in 1914.

In 1893 Mr. John Reuling and Sara E. Deemer were united in marriage. Mrs. Reuling is a daughter of John A. and Elizabeth (Erwin) Deemer. Her parents moved to Iowa from Indiana, where Mr. Deemer was engaged in the lumber business. His eldest son, Horace E. Deemer, was elected to the supreme court of Iowa, in which capacity he distinguished himself. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Reuling. Mrs. Reuling was brought up in the gentle faith of the Society of Friends and still remains a member of the organization. Her husband was confirmed in the Lutheran church and is still a communicant of same. Politically he allies himself with the Republican party and he has served three terms as mayor of Wymore, also one term as the city treasurer.

The First National Bank of Wymore, of which Mr. Reuling is president, has a capital of $50,000, with undivided profits and surplus of $16,000, the average deposits being $500,000. He devotes his entire time to his banking interests but during this time of the world war he has effected an organization which has for its goal the supplying of funds for the war and for army supplies. He is also chairman of the Gage County Bankers' Patriotic Association, organized in the fall of 1917.

Mr. Reuling was the first president and one of the organizers of the Farmers' Grain, Lumber & Coal Company of Wymore, also president of the Building & Loan Association. He is affiliated with the York Rite bodies of the Masonic fraternity and also with the Mystic Shrine. He has served as master of his Masonic lodge, as high priest in his local chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and as thrice illustrious master of the council of Royal & Select Masters. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is treasurer of his lodge, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

ARCHIE C. HITT. — The late Archie C. Hitt was born in Delaware county, New York, May 13, 1848. The Empire state was the home of the Hitt family for many years, his

parents, Samuel and Jeannette (Campbell) Hitt, were likewise born in Delaware county, the former on the 16th day of September, 1812, his death occurring July 10, 1883, in Odell, Nebraska. The mother was born May 15, 1812, and died January 7, 1877. Samuel Hitt was a lumberman in the early days when he lived in Delaware county. That county to-day hears the lumberman's ax no more, as it is densely settled and covered with factories of every sort. But the men like Mr. Hitt blazed the way that the factory might in its turn be raised. In this county was solemnized the marriage of Samuel Hitt and Jeannette Campbell, and their three children were there born. In 1855 they removed to Ogle county, Illinois, and there Mr. Hitt engaged in farming. In that county they laid the wife and mother to rest, in 1877. In 1883 the father and sons came to Gage county, Nebraska, locating in Odell. Shortly after their arrival Samuel Hitt passed to the life eternal, his death occurring on the 10th day of July, 1883. Of the three children the following brief record is offered: Mary J. is the wife of H. Price, living in Paddock township, this county; Archie C. is the subject of this memoir; and George B. has later mention in this sketch.

Archie C. Hitt was married to Etta Shafer in Ogle county, Illinois. She was born December 5, 1859, in Delaware county, New York, a daughter of Lyman and Jane Shafer. Her father likewise was engaged in the lumber business in New York. He later farmed in Ogle county, Illinois, and also farmed for some time in Mississippi, going to the latter state in 1898. In 1907 he came to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he made his home until his death, September 6, 1914. Mr. Shafer was born in 1829, and his wife, Mrs. Jane Shafer, was born in 1837: she makes her home with her oldest daughter, Mrs. Archie Hitt.

In 1883 Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hitt came to Elm township, Gage county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Section 24. Mr. Hitt pursued his farming operations on this land until his death, May 18, 1899. Four children came to bless this home, as follows: Jennie is the wife of Frank J. Kaufman, of Elm township; Alvin also resides in this township; Cora is the wife of H. L. Raney, living south of Wymore, this county; and Archie D. is at home with his widowed mother. When Mr. Hitt died he left a burden of debt on the farm. His widow, with the children, did the farm work and paid the indebtedness. She even worked in the field to compass this worthy end.

George B. Hitt, the brother of Archie Hitt, was born in Delaware county, New York, January 6, 1850, and is now engaged in farming one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 24, Elm township, just south of the Archie Hitt farm. The two brothers worked constantly in partnership and since Archie's death George Hitt has helped Mrs. Hitt with her farming and makes his home with her and her family.

George Hitt's early life was spent in Delaware county, New York, and Ogle county, Illinois, and since then he has farmed the present land, with the exception of one year, 1883-1884, when he farmed in Marshall county, Kansas. Mr. Hitt has never married. He votes the Republican ticket and takes an active interest in all local civic affairs.

WILLIAM M. EBY, who is living retired on his farm in Glenwood township, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1847. His father, Moses Eby, was likewise a native of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, where he was born November 11, 1826. In 1850 Moses Eby became a pioneer settler in La Salle county, Illinois, where he located on a farm near where the city of Mendota was afterward built. He was a successful farmer and his last days were spent at Freeport, Illinois, where he passed away in 1908, at the age of eighty-two years. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah Haak. She was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, and passed away at the old home in La Salle county, Illinois, December 9, 1876. They were the parents of five children. William M. is the eldest, besides being the only son; two daughters, Adeline and Ida died in young womanhood; and

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM M. EBY

the two surviving daughters are Mrs. George Betz, of Princeton, Illinois, and Mrs. Philip Betz, of Storm Lake, Iowa.

William M. Eby was three years old when the family settled in Illinois, where his boyhood days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads of that period — attending the public schools and assisting in the work of the farm. On reaching manhood he purchased land and engaged in farming in an independent way. He continued his farm enterprise in Illinois until 1885, when he came to Nebraska. The first year he spent in Odell, and in 1886 he bought his present farm, upon which he has lived continuously since that time. The improvements on the place were of a very primitive order, but these were replaced with the buildings that now adorn the property and which are among the best in the township. Though this farm has always been his home he has rented his land year after year for sixteen years, in the meanwhile he conducted a general merchandise store at Lanham, and since severing his connection with mercantile pursuits he has lived retired.

While a resident of Illinois Mr. Eby was united in marriage to Miss Malinda Eckert, a native of La Salle county, that state. She was born May 7, 1852, a daughter of Jonas and Nancy (Erb) Eckert, who were natives of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, and who, in 1849, became residents of La Salle county, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Eby became the parents of seven children: Ed is in the employ of the United States postoffice department, as clerk in the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska; Ida is the wife of Ed Jeffreys; William is deceased; Mrs. I. E. Faulder lives in Riverside township; Henry is a resident of Beatrice; Laura is the wife of Clarence Ruyle, of Bookwalter, Nebraska; and one child died in infancy.

Mr. Eby came to Glenwood township when conditions were far different than those of the present day, and in the work of transformation he has taken an active interest and part. He is a Republican in politics and has served as treasurer of his township, but the emoluments of public office have had no attraction for him, and close application to his own affairs has brought him the success that enables him to put aside the active work of former years and enjoy a well earned rest.

FRANK STRAUCH was born in Germany on the 28th of June, 1854, a son of Karl and Elizabeth Strauch. Karl Strauch was born in Germany in 1828, and died January 1, 1892. His wife was born in 1831 and died in 1881. They became the parents of ten children, three of whom are still living: Frank, of Barneston, Nebraska, is the immediate subject of this sketch; Agnes first wedded August Walters, who died many years ago, and she is now the wife of August Dierich, their home being in Germany; and William is a farmer in Germany.

Frank Strauch came to the United States and arrived in Burlington, Iowa, on May 15, 1881, with only forty dollars in money. He stayed in Iowa only a short time and then came to Nebraska, where he worked on farms. By hard work and strict economy he saved three hundred dollars, and in 1883 he came to Gage county and bought eighty acres of land on the Otoe Indian reservation, making, out of his savings, a small payment on this land. Mr. Strauch improved this property and made the farm his home for twenty-five years. In 1899 he retired, and he has since made his home at Barneston, this county.

On January 23, 1894, Mr. Strauch was united in marriage to Miss Ida Volkmer, daughter of Ferdinand and Caroline (Reischel) Volkmer, who came to the United States from Germany in 1881. On their passage over they were shipwrecked and had some very thrilling experiences. Ferdinand Volkmer settled in Burlington, Iowa, and for many years worked for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company.

Frank Strauch and wife have no children. They are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Strauch is a Democrat and served as township assessor of Liberty township in 1899 and 1900. The township was always considered strongly Republican, but Mr. Strauch was

elected on the Democratic ticket, which goes to show his standing in the community in which he lives. Mr. Strauch has never had the advantages of an English education, but through hard work and study has educated himself.

ISAAC KILER, a retired farmer, living in Barneston, has been allied with the agricultural life of Gage county for the past thirty-five years. He is now enjoying the rest earned after years of hard labor, in winning the wild prairie to fertility and helping to build up a great agricultural community.

Isaac Kiler was born February 13, 1844, in Richland county, Ohio, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Hassinger) Kiler. John Kiler was born in Germany, in 1815, a son of John Kiler, a German farmer who came to Richland county, Ohio, in 1819, and endured all the vicissitudes of the early sailing-ship voyage, rude log cabins and the felling of the forests to make a home and clearing a space of ground for the growing of grain for the sustenance of life. These staunch and brave men who endured the hardships of those early years of our nation's history gave to their posterity brain and brawn to build up the nation which is to-day the vital exponent of the democracy man. In these rude surroundings, and close to the things of nature, John Kiler, Jr., grew to manhood and he then took as his wife Elizabeth Hassinger, who was a native of Ohio, born in 1824. In 1848 they moved, with rude ox team, over hill and valley to the state of Michigan and again built the log cabin, in the clearing of the pine forests of Michigan. Sons and daughters to the number of eight came to bless them, but ere they had reached manhood and womanhood the wife and mother passed away, in 1858. Leaving the remains of his loved companion and selling his property, Mr. Kiler moved with his family to Benton county, Iowa. Three children of this family are living, as follows: Mrs. Greenly, a widow, residing in Belle Plaine, Iowa; Isaac, subject of this sketch; and William, a farmer near Dodge City, Kansas.

John Kiler was married the second time, to Miss Sarah Shaver, who bore him five children, four of whom are living, as follows: Iona, residing in the state of Washington; John, a farmer near Superior, Nebraska; Charles, a traveling man; and Mrs. Nettie Lutz, living in Washington. The last days of John Kiler were spent in the home of his son Isaac, of this sketch, and he passed away January 1, 1889.

Isaac Kiler received his early education in Michigan and Benton county, Iowa. He helped his father on the farm until his marriage, in 1870, to Miss Clara Severance, who was born in Marion county, Ohio, a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Severance. Mr. Severance died in Michigan, where he was a farmer, and his wife died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Kiler. Five children of this family are living: Emily, the widow of William Smith, resides at McCook, Nebraska; Phila is the wife of Charles Smith, a painter at Beatrice, Nebraska; Lucy is the wife of T. S. Jones, a breeder of stock at Wessington Springs, South Dakota; E. W. is employed by the Burlington Railroad, in Wyoming; and Clara is the wife of Isaac Kiler, subject of this sketch.

In 1883 Isaac Kiler and his family came to Gage county and here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Liberty township. This land had never had a furrow turned nor been the habitation of a white man. Mr. Kiler and his wife made the improvements and continued their farming operations until they retired, in 1906. One child, P. M., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kiler and he is now operating the farm in Liberty township. He married Frances Gallogly, and they have two children, Thelma and Bernice.

Isaac Kiler is one who started with no money but with much of ambition and determination to succeed and make the most of his opportunities. In connection with his farm in Liberty township, Mr. Kiler owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas. He loves to review the early day experiences and he tells of the trip he made from Council Bluffs, in April, 1864, with a lot of horses that he took overland to Salt Lake City,

arriving — after many long weary days and nights on the trackless plains, under the stars — June 1, 1864, in Salt Lake City, and in Sacramento, California, June 28th. There were no hospitable roofs under which he could remain at night, but only the broad, virgin country with not a human habitation in sight for miles and miles. Then there were the hostile Indians and the wild animals constantly stalking the venturesome traveler. Before returning to Iowa, Mr. Kiler worked for two and one-half years in the lumber yards and saw mills.

The politics of Mr. Kiler are in accord with the Republican party and he and his wife are valued members of their community.

EDWARD NOVOTNY, a farmer of Elm township, was born in this township July 15, 1884, and is a son of John and Rose Novotny, all of whose four children are living. John Novotny was born in Bohemia, as was also his wife. He retired from active farming and is now living in Wymore, this county.

Edward Novotny has spent all of his life in the county of his birth. He received his education in the rural school of district No. 118, and has learned the art of farming in the hard school of experience. He has learned nature's whims and is able to make his broad acres yield their treasures of wheat and corn.

On the 23d day of August, 1881, in Sangamon county, Illinois, was born Nina A. Leggett, who became the wife of Edward Novotny, their marriage having been solemnized July 17, 1903. Mrs. Novotny is a daughter of Joseph and Eliza C. (Magee) Leggett. (See the sketch of Joseph Leggett for a complete history of this family.) After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Novotny came to their present farm, in Elm township, and they have labored together toward the goal of success and independence. Six children have come to bless their union, and all remain at the parental home, their names and respective dates of birth being here noted: Hilda E., September 14, 1905; Lila M., October 21, 1907; Muriel A., March 6, 1910; Lawrence E., October 24, 1912; Iona E., July 13, 1914; Donald L., December 28, 1915.

Mr. Novotny is a Republican and has served effectively as a member of the school board, of which he is now the treasurer. He is a shareholder of the Odell Farmers' Elevator & Lumber Company, and also is interested in the local telephone company. Mr. Novotny received from his father the one hundred and sixty acres of land which he owns, as his share of the estate. He is a successful farmer and is interested in all of the civic developments of his locality.

FREDERICK KRACKE, SR. — This popular pioneer citizen of Gage county was another of the sturdy young men who came to this section of Nebraska in the early days and by indomitable energy and perserverance pushed forward to the goal of large and well merited success. Upon coming to the county, from Iowa, in 1879, he purchased, at the rate of twelve dollars an acre, one hundred and sixty acres in Section 31 Clatonia township, only two acres of the tract having been broken. On this pioneer farm he and his brother Herman continued their vigorous operations four years, and he then married and purchased the eighty acres that constitutes his present finely improved and attractive homestead place, in Grant township. In 1885 he erected on this farm a frame house of two rooms, and this later gave place to his present commodious and modern residence. He continues to hold secure place as one of the representative farmers of this county, where he is now the owner of three hundred acres, in Section 6, Grant township, besides which he owns one hundred and sixty acres in Jefferson county, two hundred acres in Saline county, and one hundred and sixty acres in the San Luis valley of Colorado. He is specially prominent in Gage county industry as a breeder of fine Durham cattle and Chester White swine. Of all that he has achieved through personal ability and energy it is sufficient to say that when he arrived in the United States, as a German youth of sixteen years, his financial resources were

MRS. FREDERICK KRACKE, SR.

FREDERICK KRACKE, SR.

summed up in a single gold piece of twenty dollars, while at the present time he is the owner of a valuable landed estate aggregating over one thousand acres in area.

Mr. Kracke was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, December 23, 1853, and there he received the advantages of the excellent national schools. In 1870, at the age of sixteen years, he severed the gracious home ties and set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. For the first two years he worked on a farm in Ohio, and he then went to Jackson county, Iowa, where he was similarly employed for the ensuing seven years, his wages at the start having been but ten dollars a month. At the expiration of this period he came to Gage county, Nebraska. He is president of the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator at Dewitt, Saline county and is one of the substantial and influential citizens of this section of the state.

Reverting to the family history it may be noted that Mr. Kracke is a son of Frederick and Mary (Oldman) Kracke, both of whom passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father was a farmer. Frederick Kracke was born in 1812 and died in 1889; his wife was born in 1818 and died in 1886, both having been devout communicants of the Lutheran church. Of the children William, Henry and Dorothy (Mrs. Michaelis) died in Germany; Herman now resides at Clatonia, Gage county; the subject of this review was the next in order of birth; Dietrich resides near Plymouth, Jefferson county; Margaret, who became the wife of Henry Kracke, died in Germany, as did also Sophia (Mrs. Bucholz); and August still resides in his native land.

On the 12th of March, 1884, Mr. Kracke married Miss Adeline Meyer, who was born in Hanover, Germany, December 4, 1866, a daughter of Cord and Martha (Boese) Meyer, with whom she came to America in 1882, the family home being forthwith established in Gage county, where her parents passed the remainder of their lives, the father having become a prosperous farmer of Clatonia township. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Kracke Benjamin and Frederick, Jr., are progressive farmers of the younger generation in Grant township, and Werner is similarly engaged in Saline county; Lena is the wife of George Huneke, of Saline county; and the younger children, who remain members of the gracious home circle, are Gustav, Herman, Emil and Emma.

Loyal in all ways to the land of his adoption and appreciative of the opportunities here afforded him, Mr. Kracke has shown this in his civic liberality and progressiveness. He is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party and while he has no ambition for office he was elected assessor of Grant township in 1909. He held this position two years and then resigned, on account of impaired health. For fully fifteen years past he has been a valued member of the school board of District No. 149, and he has at all times been found ready to give his influence and co-operation in the support of measures and enterprises advanced for the general good of the community. He and his wife are zealous communicants of the Lutheran church and their pleasant home is known for its generous hospitality and good cheer.

EDWARD G. RATHBUN left the distinct imprint of his life upon Gage county history. He was a farmer who combined with his practical business affairs that rare, upright character that helped to mould the nation's life. Mr. Rathbun was a son of Job B. and Maria (Brown) Rathbun. Job B. Rathbun was born in Steuben county, New York, and was reared to manhood in his native state. After his marriage to Maria Brown they remained for a short while in their home county, but they were soon located in Ogle county, Illinois, tilling the soil, their home being near the thriving little city of Rochelle. In 1871 they traversed the prairies to seek newer fields of labor, and located this time in Johnson county, Nebraska. They later moved to De Witt, where Mrs. Rathbun's death occurred, in 1881. Mr. Rathbun was an extensive land-owner, having at one time owned three thousand acres of land. This great acreage was accumulated from the hard labor of Mr. Rathbun

and his wise use of the fertile lands of his adopted state, where he remained until his death. He was the father of seven children, only three of whom are living: Fannie is the wife of Charles Ojers, of Lincoln township, who is individually represented on other pages of this volume; Clarence resides at De Witt, Nebraska; and the address of Charles E. is unknown to members of the family in Nebraska.

Edward G. Rathbun, the subject of this memoir, was born December 25, 1863, in Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, and when just a lad he participated in the great adventure of crossing the plains in a covered wagon and sleeping under the stars. His early years were spent in Johnson county, Nebraska, and in 1880 he came to Gage county to till some of her fertile soil.

It was in this county, February 27, 1887, that he married Nellie E. Whipple. After their marriage he farmed one hundred and sixty acres of land northeast of Ellis, Nebraska, and he and his young wife shared together the vicissitudes of the early farmers on unbroken land. In 1892 they purchased land adjoining the village limits of Ellis, in Section 20, Lincoln township. He continued to add to his land holdings until he had several hundred acres. Mr. Rathbun passed away January 7, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun became the parents of eight children, as follows: Edna is the wife of Rev. J. H. Bankson, of Reynolds, Nebraska; Olive died in infancy; Stella is the wife of H. C. Clausen, of Anderson, Indiana; Julia is the wife of C. L. McClure, of Ellis, Nebraska, farming the home place; the next child, a son, died in infancy; Viola is the wife of L. A. Peckham, living near Pawnee City, Nebraska; Rose and Rulo remain at home with their mother. Mrs. Rathbun, the mother of these children, was born March 23, 1870, near St. Charles, Illinois, and is the only child of Frank and Mary (Vinecke) Whipple. At the age of fifteen years Mrs. Rathbun came to Beatrice, Gage county, where she remained in the home of her maternal grandfather, Benjamin Vinecke, until the time of her marriage. Mrs. Rathbun is the owner of 137 acres of land in Lincoln township and is also a shareholder in the Ellis Farmers' Grain Elevator. She is a member of the Methodist church, and she and her husband donated to the Methodists of Ellis the lots for the erection of their house of worship. They were also very zealous in the organizing of the church and always gave liberally of their means in the support of church work.

The Prohibition party received the support of Mr. Rathbun's vote. In his early years the Republican party had received his vote, but he realized that the prohibition principles were of high value to the community and the country and gave to it his staunch allegiance. He was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

DAVID M. BINDERNAGEL is an energetic farmer living in Lincoln township. He is interested in the breeding of Duroc-Jersey hogs and is known through the county as the man who took first and second prizes on his Duroc-Jersey sows which he exhibited at the Gage county fair. He also was awarded a silver cup for the best litter of pigs. He has made a specialty of breeding Duroc-Jersey swine since 1914 and has a strain of hogs that has taken national prizes.

Mr. Bindernagel is a native Gage county boy, and was born in Section 36, Blakely township, November 10, 1876. His parents, Philip and Margaret (Marshall) Bindernagel, reside in the city of Beatrice, and are specifically mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Bindernagel received his education in the rural school of his district and attended the high school at Beatrice for a short time. His farming operations for himself began in 1907, when he rented his present farm from his father. He has made improvements, including the erection of a modern house and good barns. At the present time he is farming one hundred and ninety acres of land — one hundred and sixty acres from his father's estate and thirty acres from that of his father-in-law, Harvey O. Mason.

March 6, 1912, David M. Bindernagel mar-

ried Miss Gertrude M. Mason, who was born July 23, 1890, in Lincoln township, this county. She is a daughter of Harvey O. Mason, whose personal and family record is given on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Bindernagel have one child, Marjorie Rose, born March 4, 1913.

The school directors of his district feel themselves fortunate to have Mr. Bindernagel on their board. He has served a number of times as road overseer. In politics he is a Republican, and he and his wife are communicants of the Trinity Lutheran church.

GEORGE BAKER. — The story of what has been accomplished by George Baker during nearly forty years of residence in Gage county demonstrates that Nebraska is still a region of opportunities. From a boy with twenty-five dollars in his pocket to the status of a citizen owning two hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, is a summary of the life and achievement of Mr. Baker. His fine landed estate is located in Gage and Jefferson counties and all of the land is under intensive and effective cultivation, his home farm being in Elm township, Gage county.

George Baker was born in the state of Michigan and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Hable) Baker, both natives of Germany. John Baker was born in the year 1827 and upon immigrating from Germany to the United States he settled in Michigan. In Berrien county, that state, he wedded Mrs. Elizabeth (Hable) Neice, who was born in Grossbeck, Germany, March 27, 1830, and whose first marriage was solemnized in her native land. As the wife of Mr. Neice she became the mother of three children — William and Peter Neice, of Gage county, Nebraska, and Mary, who is the wife of George Rynerson, of South Dakota. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Neice became a resident of Berrien county, Michigan, where, as above noted, she became the wife of John Baker. Under crude conditions John Baker thereafter conducted farming operations in Michigan, of which state he was a pioneer. He died in 1887 and George, subject of this sketch, is his only son.

George Baker was born on his father's farm in Berrien county, Michigan, August 3, 1865, and left the parental roof when he was fourteen years of age. In 1879 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he lived with his two half-brothers, William and Peter Neice. In 1888 Mr. Baker rented eighty acres of land upon which the plow of man had never turned a furrow. He rented this tract from his mother, who had purchased it after her husband's death. It was on this farm that Mr. Baker suffered all of the labors, hardships, and privations which gave him the experience to become a good farmer. He built a small house and bought a team to break the land. The second year of his stay he had eighty acres planted in corn, and the yield was only one-half bushel of corn. In the succeeding winter he had to borrow money to buy corn for his horses. The following year he put in his crop again, expecting mother nature to yield a good crop, and she did. He made his start with his herd of cattle by taking hay to the markets at Beatrice and exchanging it for six head of calves. Thus, little by little, was the foundation laid for success and the accumulating of his broad acres and well improved home. Mr. Baker's mother kept house for him for twelve years, spending her last days in his home, where her death occurred in 1908.

June 13, 1894, Mr. Baker married Miss Emma Dewey, and they have three children: Harry, born January 27, 1897; Nellie, born January 31, 1903; and Hattie, born April 28, 1908. The children are all at home with their parents. Mrs. Emma Baker was born on a farm near Roseville, Illinois. She is one of the five daughters born to I. B. and Mary J. (Sponge) Dewey. Her father was born October 12, 1837, in Jefferson county, New York. He was a veteran of the Civil war, in which he served three years and three months in defense of his country's integrity. After the war he followed agricultural pursuits until his retirement to a home in Beatrice, in 1895. Mr. Dewey came to Nebraska in 1880, and his death occurred December 7, 1910, at Hutchinson, Kansas. He was a second cousin of Ad-

miral Dewey, of Spanish-American war fame. His wife, Mrs. Mary (Sponge) Dewey, was born December 9, 1839, in Anderson county, Indiana.

Mrs. Emma (Dewey) Baker was educated in the Fairbury public schools and at one time she was a pupil of Dr. Hepperlen, of Beatrice, when he taught the rural school near Plymouth, Nebraska. Mr. Baker is a Republican and loyally supports the party ticket. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a shareholder of the grain elevators located at Diller and Harbine, Nebraska.

HENRY W. EHMEN, who is one of the progressive agriculturists and stock-raisers of Hanover township, is here the owner of a half section of land, all in one body, and the three hundred and twenty acres, in Sections 27 and 28, constitute one of the model farms of the county.

Mr. Ehmen was born in Adams county, Illinois, July 22, 1866, a son of William and Ehmke (Johnson) Ehmen, both natives of Germany, where the former was born May 25, 1845, and the latter on the 19th of September, 1841, their marriage having been solemnized at Golden, Adams county, Illinois, and Mrs. Ehmen having been a young woman when she came from Germany to the United States. William Ehmen was twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to America and was reared to manhood in the state of Illinois. There he continued his active association with farming until 1869, when he came with his family to Gage county and numbered himself among the pioneer farmers of Hanover township, where he developed a good farm and where he continued to reside until his death, February 14, 1906. His widow remains with her son John on the old homestead, she being a devout communicant of the Lutheran church, as was also her husband. Of their six children Henry W. of this review, is the eldest; Trinke became the wife of Wilke T. Jurgens and her death occurred several years ago; Minnie is the wife of Harm DeBuhr, of Hanover township; Jennie is the widow of John W. Parde and resides in Hanover township; Ida is the wife of Bernard H. Siefkes, of whom mention is made on other pages; and John has the management of his father's old home farm.

Henry W. Ehmen was three and one-half years of age at the time of the family removal to Gage county, and here he was reared on the pioneer farm, the while he made proper use of the advantages afforded in the district schools of Hanover township. His father accumulated a large landed estate and when the subject of this review was twenty-six years of age he purchased of his father a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. On the place was a primitive house, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, and this Mr. Ehmen remodeled and equipped as his original domicile. He now has on the farm a large and modern house, besides other excellent farm buildings that likewise indicate his thrift and progressiveness. His political support is given to the Republican party and he and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church.

In 1892 Mr. Ehmen wedded Miss Tina Parde, daughter of William and Theda Parde, residents of Hanover township. Mrs. Ehmen was born at Golden, Adams county, Illinois, and was thirteen years old when the family came to Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Ehmen became the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living: Tete is the wife of Henry F. Schuster, of Logan Township; and William, Katie, Henry, Minnie, Grace and John remain at the parental home.

FRED W. FRISBIE. — The Frisbie family has kept a record of the family tree from the beginnings of their family in the New World, when Edward Frisbie, a native of Denmark, traversed the seas in the latter part of the seventeenth century to cast his lot with the colonists in America. This family here established itself in the early history of this nation and has taken an active part in the upbuilding of its industrial and civil institutions.

Fred W. Frisbie, a descendant of this long line of American ancestors, was born April 8, 1875, in Cook county, Illinois. He is a son of

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM EHMEN

William and Libbie (Peet) Frisbie, who have been prominently identified with the agricultural and social life of Elm township, Gage county, Nebraska. William Frisbie is a son of Frederick and Polly (Ludington) Frisbie, who were natives of New York and moved to Lorain county, Ohio, in 1843. Later they removed to Cook county, Illinois, following agricultural pursuits in both of these states. Frederick Frisbie was married three times, and his third wife, Polly (Ludington) Frisbie, was the mother of William Frisbie. These good people were laid to rest in Cook county, Illinois. Their son William was born November 21, 1827, at Hannibal, New York, and shared with them their migrations to Ohio and Illinois. November 9, 1852, he married Mary Ann Smith, to whom no children were born, and whose death occurred many years ago. The marriage of William Frisbie and Libbie Peet was solemnized September 13, 1870, in Cook county, Illinois. Six children were born of this union, and three of the number are living, namely: Albert, residing in Elm township, Gage county; William, living in Jefferson county, near Diller; and Fred W., the subject of this sketch. The three deceased are Charles, Marguerite, and Emma. Emma was the wife of Elmer Greider and left two children.

William Frisbie farmed in Cook county, Illinois, many years and there accumulated a considerable acreage of fertile land. In 1878 or 1879 he made several trips through Kansas and Nebraska, looking for a new location for a home, and in 1883 he moved to Elm township, Gage county, upon the portion of land that suited him better than any other lands he had investigated. A small one-room house accommodated his family in those early years, but as prosperity smiled upon him he added to the original structure, which is situated on the old trail running northeast and southwest from Beatrice to Diller. Mr. Frisbie's last days were spent in this home and he was called to his reward April 8, 1906, the birth anniversary of his son Fred W., subject of this sketch. His wife, Mrs. Libbie (Peet) Frisbie, was born in Sullivan, Ohio, May 20, 1844, and died May 12, 1903.

Fred W. Frisbie is now farming the old homestead, of which he came into possession in 1905. He has spent the greater part of his life on this farm and is conducting a general farming business. He has high-grade Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey and Hampshire hogs. He has made improvements on the farm, building two new barns, a silo, and a hay barn.

December 24, 1901, Fred W. Frisbie married Miss Zaidee Dowling, who was born May 11, 1882, in Scott county, Iowa. Her parents, James C. and Mary W. (Madden) Dowling, were born in London, England, and Iowa, respectively. Mr. Dowling was a farmer in Iowa for many years but in 1881 he and his wife went to Colorado, where they spent their remaining days. After their death, their daughter Zaidee came to live with her maternal grandfather, Henry Madden. After finishing her education she taught school until her marriage to Mr. Frisbie. Of this union have been born six children, all remaining at home with their parents. They are: Ralph, Nellie, Leonard, Donald, Norman D., and Helen Elizabeth, the last named having been born March 28, 1918.

The politics of Mr. Frisbie are in accord with the principles of the Republican party, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

JOHN E. ANDERSON. — Sweden is a land of long, cold winters and short, cool summers, where the fjords and glaciers combined with the mountains make a scenery picturesque and grand. It is not the grandeur of Italy with its sunshine and flowers but the grandeur of nature in its sterner moods. From this land of Sweden has come the man whose name heads this review, and he was born May 13, 1862. His father, Andrew Anderson, was a mechanic and carpenter and lived his life in his native northland, as did also his wife, who was called to eternal rest

when her son John E., of this sketch, was a lad of seven years. Although he had no mother to guide and comfort him, the lad's father was both mother and father to him. Of the seven children, three are living in Gage county, namely: Anton, who is farming in Elm township; Charles, who makes his home with his brother Anton; and John, who is the subject of this review. Peter, Amanda, and Tilda (a widow) are still in Sweden.

In 1882 John E. Anderson took passage upon an ocean liner for the United States and upon his arrival he worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. A portion of the following year he spent in railroad construction work in Michigan, and also, from Odell, Nebraska, he assisted in the construction of the railroad line running south into Kansas. After this work was finished he was employed by John Fitzgerald, on his ranch, which is now owned by Frank Hubka. For the munificent sum of twenty dollars a month, he built fences, hauled lumber, helped in the building of the house, barn, etc., besides breaking wild prairie land.

November 28, 1889, John E. Anderson married Elizabeth Kroschewski, who was born in Germany, in 1868, and who made the journey to this country with an older sister, in 1884. They came directly to Gage county, where both married. The older sister is Mrs. Wittkowski. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born eight children all of whom are under the parental roof — Charles H., Bertha, Mary, Amanda, Alice, Martha, Cecelia, and Orin J.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Anderson worked for three years for David Fitzgerald, the former as a laborer and the latter in the home. After leaving this employment, Mr. Anderson rented land in Elm and Sicily townships. In 1899 he rented one hundred and sixty acres of land in Section 1, Elm township and in 1901 he purchased the same, this place having since continued to be the family home. At the time when Mr. Johnson purchased this land it did not seem a very promising investment, with its cockle-burrs, sunflowers, etc. But the years have passed and Mr. Anderson has won the land to fertility and profitable productiveness. Mr. Anderson's family are of the Catholic faith and he is a supporter of the political principles of the Republican party.

ROBERT S. JONES was born in Gage county, Nebraska, November 7, 1882, record of the family history appearing in the sketch of John S. Jones, elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Jones was educated in the district schools of Gage county and the Wymore high school. He has always followed farming. On September 5, 1906, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Ella A. Jones, who was born at Barrett, Kansas, a daughter of O. R. and Amanda Jones. O. R. Jones came to Gage county many years ago and at one time owned the land on which the town of Wymore now stands. Several years ago he sold his Gage county land and moved to Kansas, where he owned fifteen hundred acres of land, and where his death occurred in 1913. His widow still makes her home in that state.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Jones are the parents of four children whose names and respective ages, in 1918, are here noted: Kenneth, eight years; Gertrude, six years; Willard, four years; and Elizabeth, two years. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist church. He is a Mason, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Jones has served on the school board for six years. He is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Barneston township, and sixty acres near Wymore, where he makes his home. Mr. Jones does a general farming business, raises cattle and live stock of all kinds, and buys and ships stock. He has made a success of life, and is one of Gage county's prosperous farmers.

HURAM LACY. — With no unusual advantages at the beginning of and no spectacular phases during his career, Huram Lacy has reached the goal of success and is to-day one of the men of affairs in Gage county. His natal day was April 25, 1850, and the place of his birth was in the ferry house at Davenport, Iowa, on the ground where Colonel

MR. AND MRS. HIRAM LACY

Davenport lived and where his murder occurred on July 4, 1845.

Mr. Lacy's father, Huram Lacy, Sr., was a native of Kentucky and became a river man on the Mississippi. At the time of the birth of his son he was operating a ferry at Davenport. His death occurred in Henry county, Iowa, in 1857. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Anna Workman and she was a native of Tennessee. After the death of her husband she and her children became residents of Kansas, and in 1863 they came to Richardson county, Nebraska. Her last days were spent at the home of her son John near Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Huram Lacy, the subject of this review, spent his boyhood days in Kansas and Nebraska, and at the age of twenty-one years he became a farmer in Richardson county, Nebraska. In 1877 Mr. Lacy came to Gage county and purchased eighty acres of unimproved Indian land, in Section 2, Paddock township, and on March 4, 1878, he located on this farm, which has since continued the stage of his activities. His first home was a small frame shanty now used for the shelter of stock. His present commodious frame house is among the best in the township. Mr. Lacy is the owner of three hundred and six acres of valuable land, — an evidence of his success in his chosen calling.

September 16, 1873, Mr. Lacy was united in marriage to Miss Frances Johnson, who born at St. Joseph, Missouri, a daughter of Alexander and Mary Johnson, both of whom have been deceased several years. Mr. and Mrs. Lacy became the parents of thirteen children: Mattie, James, Craig, Alice, Mary and Alexander are still under the paternal roof; Joseph is in the national army and in the spring of 1918, was located at Camp Fremont, California; Adra is the wife of L. C. Wykoff, of Iola, Kansas; Bertha is the wife of E. A. Gaukel, Red Oak, Iowa; Roy, married and in the employ of the Burlington Railroad, lives at Wymore, Gage county; W. J. is in the national army at Fort Riley. Two children died in infancy.

Mr. Lacy is a member of the Christian church at Wymore. In recent years Mr. Lacy has voted the Democratic ticket. He has served his township in an official capacity on several occasions, doing efficient service as a member of the school board, road overseer and township assessor. His name is on the membership roll of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Wymore, and he is a member also of the Knights & Ladies of Security.

Mr. Lacy located on his farm in the same year that the land in that part of the county was opened for settlement. There were no district schools in his locality at that time and no houses nearer than Blue Springs. In all the work of development and progress he has contributed his full share, and he is possessed of those qualities of heart and mind which make his place in the community an enviable one.

JOHN C. HOOD, a representative farmer of Elm township, was born April 15, 1869, in Mason county, Illinois. He is a son of Martin and Ellen (Horn) Hood, of whose seven children four are living, namely: Thomas, a resident of Fremont county, Iowa; Ellen, the wife of John J. Clancy, of Elm township, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; John C., the subject of this review; Dora, the wife of A. J. Jamison, a farmer in Elm township. An adopted daughter, Maggie Brown, is now the wife of James Long, of Sicily township. The deceased children were Mary, Lizzie and Julia.

Martin Hood was born November 29, 1836, in Ireland and in 1850, with two brothers, he left the Emerald Isle and located at New Orleans. Thence they went to Peoria, Illinois, where Martin worked as a grader on the construction of a railroad. By frugal habits and the saving of his earnings he was soon enabled to purchase land near Peoria, Illinois. He farmed also at Chillicothe, Illinois, and in Mason county, that state. Finally he went to Union county, Iowa, where he remained less than one year, and then, in 1882, he came to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he was located until he purchased the old home farm in Section 9, Elm township. Twelve dollars an acre was paid

for this land, which the plow of man had never touched, and now, after years of toil and labor it is worth ten times that amount. In 1900 Mr. Hood retired from active farming and removed to Beatrice, where he passed away May 27, 1913. His wife, Mrs. Ellen (Horn) Hood, was born in County Galloway, Ireland, October 31, 1831. Coming to America with her sisters, in 1847, they chose as their home, Peoria, Illinois, where she met and married Martin Hood, with whom she shared many long years of happy companionship. Her life was drawn to a close February 24, 1893. These good people were devout members of the Catholic church and gave liberally of their time and means in support of the church.

When John C. Hood was thirteen years old his parents came to Gage county. Here he attended the district schools and he completed his education by attending the business college at Janesville, Wisconsin, where he pursued his studies of telegraphy and typewriting. For three months he was employed by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, but he had to resign his position because of the financial stress of President Cleveland's administration, which caused so much panic in financial circles and big corporations. Mr. Hood returned to his father's farm, and since that time he has continued his farming operations. After his parents' death he was apportioned his share of the estate and he has since purchased eighty acres from his sister Ellen, (Mrs. John J. Clancy.)

At Beatrice, Nebraska, July 4, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of John C. Hood to Miss Katherine Madden, who was born May 15, 1877, in St. Joseph, Missouri, and who was a daughter of Michael and Bridget (Murray) Madden, natives of Ireland. Michael Madden was a bridge contractor and he continued his residence at St. Joseph until his death. Mrs. Katherine (Madden) Hood passed to the life eternal on the 25th of May, 1912, and she is survived by three children, who remain with their father on the farm, and whose names and respective dates of birth are here noted: Lavina, March 31, 1900; Mildred, April 11, 1901; Dyle, July 1, 1906.

In politics Mr. Hood is independent, — he votes for the right man instead of merely the party candidate. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and his fraternal association is with the Knights of Pythias.

ERNEST L. SONDEREGGER was born in Jefferson county, Nebraska, March 9, 1885, and is a son of Carl Sonderegger, whose record appears on other pages of this volume. Ernest L. Sonderegger received his early education in the public schools of Jefferson county, and in the Beatrice Business college. He later went to Germany and Switzerland, where he studied German and also gained expert knowledge of the nursery and seed business. After returning to the United States Mr. Sonderegger became associated with his father in the seed business in Beatrice, and he has continuously followed that business. The Sonderegger Nursery & Seed Company is one of the largest and most complete of its kind in the country, and controls a very large business, there being a heavy demand for the concern's nursery stock, and seeds being shipped almost to all parts of the world.

October 15, 1913, Mr. Sonderegger was united in marriage to Miss Helen Loeber, of Beatrice. She is a daughter of a former banker of Hebron, this state. Mrs. Sonderegger was educated in the Beatrice schools and is a graduate of the high school of this city. She was at one time a teacher in the public schools.

In politics Mr. Sonderegger is an independent Republican, but he has had no desire for public office. He devotes his entire time to the nursery business, having charge of the seed department. Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger are members of the Christian church of Beatrice.

EMERY S. ELLIS, whose well improved farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, is situated in Section 16, Midland township, has been a resident of Gage county from his boyhood days and is a representative of one of the prominent, honored and influential pioneer families of this section of the state, his father

EMERY S. ELLIS

having at one time been the owner of three thousand acres of land in Gage county and having conducted extensive operations in the raising and shipping of live stock as well as along agricultural lines. The eldest in a family of three sons and two daughters, Emery S. Ellis was born in Woodford county, Illinois, on the 6th of August, 1867, and he is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Miller) Ellis, the former of whom was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 3d of April, 1844, and the latter of whom was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1840, she having been a daughter of Alexander and Eliza Miller and having been a young woman at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where was solemnized her marriage to Joseph Ellis, who was at the time a gallant young veteran of the Union service in the Civil war.

Joseph Ellis acquired his rudimentary education in his native land and was about eight years old when, 1852, he came with his parents, John and Mary (Nettleton) Ellis, to the United States, and settled in the state of New Jersey, whence, in 1857, removal was made to Illinois, his parents having been members of sterling old families long established in Yorkshire, England. Upon the removal to Illinois the family settled in Woodford county, where John Ellis purchased and developed a good farm and where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, the father having been a communicant of the Church of England and later of the American representative of the same faith, the Protestant Episcopal church, while the mother was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Joseph Ellis attended school in New Jersey and was about thirteen years old at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where at the age of seventeen years he showed his distinctive loyalty to the land of his adoption by enlisting, in August, 1861, as a member of Company B, Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the West and with which he participated in many engagements, including the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, in which Mr. Ellis received a severe wound in the right arm. After leaving the hospital he rejoined his regiment and took part in the battle of Vicksburg, he having been present at the capitulation of that city. Thereafter he took part in the battles at Lake Chicot, Arkansas, and Tupelo and Abbeyville, Mississippi, and after having served gallantly and faithfully for three years and two months he received his honorable discharge, in October, 1864, at Springfield, Illinois. It may consistently be noted at this point that in later years, after his removal to Gage county, Nebraska, he became an active and honored member of the post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Dewitt, Saline county, a village not far distant from his homestead farm in Gage county.

After the close of the war Mr. Ellis continued his association with farm enterprise in Illinois until 1872, when he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Gage county. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Grant township, and as a grower and shipper of cattle he gradually increased the area of his landed estate until he became the owner of fully three thousand acres, his average annual shipment of cattle to the eastern markets having for a term of years been about twenty carloads. He made the best of improvements upon his farm property and made his homestead place one of the model farms of the county. In gradually limiting his live-stock operations he disposed of much of his land, but he continued to be recognized as one of the most substantial and influential representatives of farm industry in the county, commanding unequivocal popular esteem and having become a director of the People's Bank of Beatrice, of which his brother John was president. Mr. Ellis was unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party. He died March 25, 1915, and his widow now maintains her home in the city of Beatrice. Of their four children who attained to maturity the subject of this review is the eldest, as previously noted: Frank O. resides in the city of Beatrice, where he is engaged in teaming; Harry O. is a resident of

Kansas City, Missouri; Laura E. is the wife of Frank Sankey, of Harbine, Jefferson county.

Emery S. Ellis, the immediate subject of this review, was a lad of five years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Gage county and here he early gained practical experience through his association with his father's extensive operations as an agriculturist and stock-grower, the while he duly availed himself of the advantages of the local schools. He has wisely continued his active identification with farm enterprise during the long intervening years and is one of the progressive and successful agriculturists and stock-growers of Midland township, his well improved farm comprising the southwest quarter of Section 16. He raises good grades of cattle and swine in connection with his agricultural operations, is a vigorous and well poised business man and both as a farmer and a liberal citizen he is fully upholding the prestige of a name that has been significantly prominent and honored in connection with the annals of Gage county. He has never manifested any ambition for political preferment but is aligned staunchly in the ranks of the Republican party. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

On the 9th of March, 1898, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Ellis to Miss Caroline Moshel, daughter of Ludwig Moshel, concerning whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have an interesting family of five children and all remain, in 1918, members of the gracious home circle, namely: Edith E., Caroline M., Katherine L., Bertha L. and Lulu E.

FRED J. WOODS, M. D., of Barneston, who has here been established in the practice of his profession for more than twenty years, was born near Springfield, Illinois, March 22, 1867, and is a son of James and Henrietta (Thumbles) Woods, both now deceased. James Woods was born in Indiana, in 1813, and for a number of years he made his home in Illinois, where he followed the trade of cabinetmaker. In 1868, with a covered "prairie schooner," Mr. Woods took his family and all of his earthly possessions and started across the plains of Iowa. He crossed the Missouri river into Nebraska, to locate in Otoe county, near the present village of Dunbar. In those early days, after the close of the civil war, there was a great deal of unrest amongst the people of the United States and the new state of Nebraska was just being peopled by the sturdy and courageous men and women who dared to brave pioneer hardships. After farming for some time in Otoe county Mr. Woods removed to Syracuse, that county, where he died in 1873. His wife, Henrietta (Thumbles) Woods, was born in Germany, in 1823, and their marriage was solemnized in Illinois, where ten children were born to them. Five of the children are living, namely: George H., a Civil war veteran, now residing in Louisville, Nebraska; Eva, the wife of George Creighton, a retired farmer at Livingston, Wyoming; Augusta, wife of J. R. Raney, living near Lincoln, Nebraska; Laura, wife of W. R. Parkins, operating a fruit ranch at Kerman, California; and Dr. Fred J., with whom this sketch deals. The parents were strong religious characters, and reared their children in the way that they should go, believing that "as the twig is bent the tree inclines." They were members of the Methodist church. Mrs. Woods passed to her reward in 1917, having attained the venerable age of ninety-four years. Hers was a life spent in Christian service, and her memory rests as a benediction upon the lives which were so near and dear to her.

Dr. Fred J. Woods received much of his early education in the schools of Weeping Water, Nebraska, and the high school at Syracuse, Otoe county. In preparing for his chosen profession he entered the Lincoln Medical College, in the capital city of Nebraska, and in the same he was graduated in 1897, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Soon after his graduation he came to Barneston, where he has been established in successful practice during the intervening years and where his ability and character mark him as

MR. AND MRS. HENRY FOCKEN

one of the representative physicians and surgeons of Gage county.

January 4, 1891, at Aubury, Nebraska, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Woods to Miss Rose Schull, who was born March 10, 1868, in southern Missouri, and who is a daughter of Dr. H. I. and Lydia (Reynolds) Schull, the former born in Indiana and the latter in Missouri. Dr. Schull is now retired from active work and resides at Auburn, Nebraska. He practised medicine in Missouri until 1888, when he came to Auburn, Nebraska, where he continued the work of a successful physician until 1903, when he retired. His wife died June 29, 1913. They had seven children, three of whom are living: John C., farmer and attorney, of Clinton, Oklahoma; Laura, the wife of G. H. Walters, Lincoln, Nebraska, a bookkeeper in the employ of the Nebraska Loan & Investment Company; and Rose, wife of Dr. Woods, of this review. Doctor Schull was in service in the commissary department during the Civil war.

Dr. and Mrs. Woods have two children: Hope is the wife of Luther E. Jones, who is engaged in the hardware and automobile business in Densmore, Canada, and they have three children, Dean, Dale and Katheryn. The younger child of Dr. and Mrs. Woods is Harold, who is now attending the Nebraska State Medical College, at Omaha, and is in his junior year (1918.)

Dr. Woods is a member of the Masonic fraternity, including the lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the Commandery of Kinghts Templars. He is affiliated also with the Royal Neighbors, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Highlanders. He is a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society. The political views of Dr. Woods are well fortified, he has served as Mayor of Barneston, and in 1914 he was a candidate for state senator on the ticket of the Progressive party.

HENRY FOCKEN, whose civic and industrial status is indicated by his ownership of four hundred acres of valuable Nebraska land, has been a resident of Gage county since 1883 and has here won his present independence and prosperity entirely through his own industry and well ordered activities in connection with farm enterprise. In Section 17 Highland township he has a well improved landed estate of two hundred and forty acres, and three miles south of Cortland he owns a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres.

In the picturesque district of East Friesland, Prussia, Germany, Henry Focken was born January 11, 1846, a son of Henry and Hilka (Barthles) Focken, the former of whom passed his entire life in Germany. In 1873 the widowed mother, in company with one daughter, came to America and joined her son George, who was then a resident of Logan county, Illinois, and who is now deceased, there being only two living of the family of seven children, — Henry, of this review, and John, who remains in Germany. The father was fifty-nine years of age at the time of his death, in 1869, and the mother passed the closing years of her life in Illinois, where she died in 1881, when about sixty-two years of age.

Henry Focken was reared and educated in his native land and was an ambitious and sturdy young man when, in 1873, he came to the United States and settled in Illinois. There he found employment at farm work and finally he began independent operations as a farmer in Logan county, that state. After having been thus engaged four years he came, in 1883, to Nebraska, and purchased from the railroad company one hundred and sixty acres of land in Highland township, Gage county, he having paid nineteen dollars an acre for this property, — the nucleus of his present large landed estate in that township. Applying himself earnestly and indefatigably, and carefully conserving his financial returns, Mr. Focken reclaimed his original farm to cultivation and with increasing prosperity made judicious investments until he accumulated his present valuable landed estate in this county. His first house was a rude pioneer shack which long since gave place to his present commodious and attractive farm house,

and he has made excellent improvements on all of his farm property, including the erection of good buildings and the providing of other facilities that denote thrift and prosperity. On his original homestead, which is still his place of residence, he set out trees that are now of large diameter and add materially to the attractions of the place. His political support is given to the Democratic party and he and his wife are members of the German Methodist church.

On the 24th of April, 1879, Mr. Focken married Miss Deborah Rocker, who came from Germany to America on the same ship as did her future husband, their acquaintanceship having been formed on the voyage Of their children Henry, Jr., is a prosperous farmer in Holt county; John is similarly engaged in Highland township, Gage county; George resides at Hallan, Lancaster county; Martin is associated in the work and management of his father's home farm; and Hulda, Lacetta and Edward likewise remain members of the parental home circle.

WILLIAM PALMER. — In the early days of Nebraska history men were of the opinion that the vast rolling prairies were primarily available only as a range for vast herds of cattle, and the cattle industry became one of great importance and volume. Incidentally was developed a branch of enterprise in which the state can still claim precedence, — that of buying cattle in large numbers for the eastern markets. One of the many men who have dealt extensively in the feeding, buying and selling of cattle is William Palmer, who is well known throughout this section of the state and at the nearby markets of Omaha, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Grand Island. He is at the present time (1918) selling his herd of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, preparatory to retirement from active work.

Mr. Palmer was born January 27, 1863, in Marshall county, Kansas, where his parents, David and Sarah (Jemmerson) Palmer were then conducting a roadhouse and ranch on the trail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Pike's Peak, Colorado. Many weary travelers spent a night or two at the Palmer roadhouse, refreshing themselves and their animals, and remaining only long enough to be able to continue their wild rush to the gold fields of Pike's Peak. Visions of wealth and affluence glittered before their eyes, but many a man came back with a broken heart, after a fruitless search for the elusive metal. David Palmer was a native of Indiana, and was a son of Eli Palmer, who came to Nebraska in a very early day, his death occurring in 1867. Mrs. David Palmer likewise was born in Indiana and was a daughter of G. F. Jemmerson, who was born in England and who came as a pioneer to Nebraska, where he passed away in 1878.

The marriage of David Palmer and Sarah Jemmerson was solemnized at Nebraska City, Nebraska, and their home for some time, as before mentioned, was in Marshall county, Kansas. In 1863 they came to Gage county and purchased land, Mr. Palmer here continuing his pioneer farm enterprise until he met a tragic death, by accidentally drowning in the Blue river, June 23, 1876. Five children were born to them, as follows: David, is a farmer of Rocky Ford, Colorado; Fannie is the wife of W. C. Evans, a traveling man, and they make their home at Barneston, Gage county; Flora is the wife of Scott McFarland, a retired farmer, living a at Barneston; Nettie is the wife of C. M. McNew, a farmer of Shroyer, Kansas; and William is the subject of this review.

The early days of William Palmer's life were spent amongst the crude but stirring and romantic surroundings of the early pioneer days, when the sod house and the ox-drawn vehicle were common sights. The wild rush of the gold-seekers also made its impress upon his young mind, but these experiences were all "stones of the fates," projected to mould a life in a certain direction. In very early boyhood William Palmer was selecting cattle for their fitness as beef or milk qualities, this foreshadowing his predilection of the later years.

In 1883 the holy bonds of marriage joined the lives of William Palmer and Miss Ella

Evans. She passed to her reward in 1900, leaving two children, Roy W., who is an electrical engineer in Arizona, and Lula, who is the wife of Frank Condefer, a member of the police force of Los Angeles, California. The second marriage of Mr. Palmer was solemnized in 1903, when Mrs. Minnie V. Livery became his wife. Her maiden name was Minnie Mayne, and she was born at Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Kaul) Mayne, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mayne early became a merchant in Ohio and in 1869 he and his wife became pioneer settlers of Gage county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead. Both he and his wife died at Blue Springs, this county.

With three hundred and fifty acres of land in Liberty township, Gage county, and four hundred acres of land in Washington county, Kansas, it is plain to be seen that Mr. Palmer has loved his work and has proved that with determination to succeed a man can start with nothing and acquire a substantial competence.

JOHN W. JONES, deceased, was born in Denbighshire, Wales, December 20, 1854, and died December 28, 1917. Mr. Jones was educated in Wales, and in 1880 came to America, settling in Gage county, Nebraska. He and his brother came to Nebraska as bachelors and bought eighty acres of land in Gage county. At the time of his death John W. Jones was the owner of six hundred and eighty acres of land and he left each of his children a farm of eighty acres.

In 1885 Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Mary Humphreys, a native of Wales. Mrs. Jones was the daughter of Richard and Jane Humphreys, both of whom died in Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Jones became the parents of four children: John D., Robert H., Thomas C. and Jennie E., wife of H. D. Lloyd. All reside in Barneston township. The parents were members of the Welsh church, of which Mr. Jones was a deacon for about eighteen years. Mr. Jones was a Republican in politics. For a number of years he was president of the Farmers' Lumber, Grain & Coal Company. He was a self-made man and accumulated a nice estate.

Thomas C. Jones was born in Gage county and received his education in the Wymore schools, graduating from the high school of that place. He has always followed farming, and recently he has greatly improved his farm building a fine new house about three years ago.

In 1913 Thomas C. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Mary R. Jones, daughter of John R. Jones, who came to Gage county in 1880, and who here became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land.

Thomas C. Jones and wife are the parents of two children: Mary Eleanor and Lucile Jane. The family are members of the Welsh church. Mr. Jones is a Republican, and he is president of the Farmers' Union. At one time Mr. Jones served as manager of the Farmers' Shipping Association. He now buys, feeds and sells cattle and hogs quite extensively, shipping mostly to the market at St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Jones is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Barneston township.

CHARLES A. WIBLE is a son of a Civil war veteran, Robert B. Wible, who farmed in Elm township. Robert B. Wible was born October 1, 1843, in Pennsylvania and was a son of Andrew and Sarah (Kilbourgh) Wible, who were farmers in Illinois, to which state they removed from Pennsylvania, where Andrew Wible had located upon his arrival from Germany, his birthplace: he was born December 30, 1816, and in 1856 removed to Illinois, where his death occurred June 24, 1890.

Robert B. Wible enlisted in the Civil war, in the teamster service, and was faithful to his duty during the entire war. After the sword and musket had been laid aside by the nation and the plow was again placed in the furrow Mr. Wible went to Nodaway county, Missouri, where for fourteen years he followed his agricultural activities. In 1882 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased land five miles southeast of Ellis, where he re-

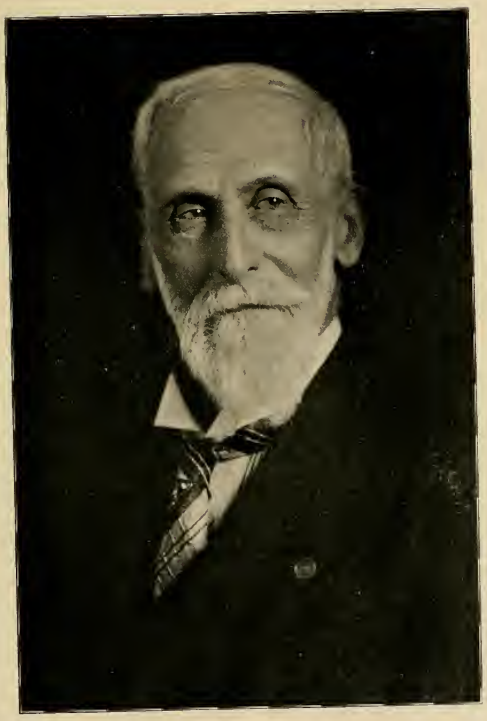
mained until his retirement: he then removed to Beatrice, in 1902, and he passed away August 7, 1909. His widow still resides in Beatrice. In Nodaway county, Missouri, October 27, 1878, Robert B. Wible was united in marriage to Clara Martin, who was born in that county, February 1, 1861, a daughter of John and Mary (Pitman) Martin. John Martin died at Elk City, Kansas, and his widow is now living in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Wible were the parents of two children: Emma was born July 26, 1879, and is the wife of Jesse Pearce, who is farming the old Wible homestead; and Charles A. is the immediate subject of this sketch.

Charles A. Wible was born July 23, 1882, in Elm township, and was educated in the district school. July 21, 1902, he married Miss Barbara Grabher, who was born March 22, 1885, in Gage county. Her parents were Joseph and Barbara (Stuber) Grabher, who were married in April, 1872. Mr. Grabher was born January 28, 1834, and died January 3, 1918, at his daughter's home. Mrs. Grabher was born March 15, 1849, and died September 13, 1908. Mrs. Charles A. Wible was the seventh in a family of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Wible are the parents of four children: Emma, Charles, Clara, and Dorothy. Mr. Wible is renting one hundred and twenty acres of land from his mother and is doing a general farming business. In politics he classifies himself as an independent Republican. His views are influenced by the character of the man and not the party which he follows. Mrs. Wible is a member of the Catholic church.

HENRY A. LASELLE. — In the year 1867, which marked the admission of Nebraska as one of the sovereign states of the Union, this venerable and revered citizen of Beatrice established his home in the beautiful little city in which he still resides, though at that time the capital of Gage county was a mere straggling, frontier village. Prior to this, as a youth, Judge LaSelle had gained intimate experience in connection with pioneer life in the west and before coming again to this portion of our national domain he had given to his native land the loyal and valiant service of a patriot soldier of the Union during virtually the entire period of the Civil war. In the midst of the clamour and devastagon of the great European war in which the United States has become involved at the time of this writing, it is grateful to revert to the strong and noble young men who went forth in defense of our national integrity and honor when the Civil war was precipitated, and to mark with renewed appreciation the lofty patriotism of those who went forth in that struggle, especially in view of the fact that each year records a definite loss in the ranks of the now venerable citizens who had been soldiers of the Union in the historic conflict between the states of the north and the south.

Judge LaSelle, a man of strong intellectuality and marked ability, contributed in the early days to the march of development and progress in Nebraska and he has continued the exemplar of high-minded and liberal civic ideals during the long intervening period. Though the year 1918 has recorded the eightieth anniversary of his birth, he has the verve and enthusiasm of a man many years his junior and does not consent to divorce himself from practical business activities and effective communal service. He still gives his attention to well ordered real-estate operations and since 1910 has been the incumbent of the office of justice of the peace. Even these few preliminary statements give assurance that this honored pioneer is one specially entitled to recognition in this history of Gage county and the state of Nebraska.

Henry A. LaSelle was born in Madison county, New York, on the 5th of August, 1838, and is a son of Mason A. and Dorcas (Conant) LaSelle, both of whom passed their entire lives in that county, where the respective families were founded in the pioneer period of the history of the Empire state, besides which both found representation in the colonial settlement of America. Mason A. LaSalle gave his entire active life to the basic industry of agriculture and was one of the venerable and honored citizens of his native



HENRY A. LASELLE

county at the time of his death, which occured March 18, 1875, his devoted wife having passed to eternal rest in the year 1866. Of their six sons and five daughters, five are now living, and of the number the subject of this review was the fourth in order of birth.

The childhood and early youth of Henry A. LaSelle were compassed by the invigorating environment and discipline of the old homestead farm in Madison county, New York, and his district-school education was supplemented by a course in Hamilton Academy, at Hamilton, New York. In 1856, at the age of eighteen years, Mr. LaSelle initiated his pioneer experience in the great west, as in that year he located in Fayette county, Iowa, where he assisted in the original development work of a new farm, besides finding requisition for his services as a teacher in the pioneer schools, this being his initial service in the pedagogic profession. In 1859 he returned to his native state, where he added to his scholastic re-inforcement by continuing his studies for two years in the historic Oneida Conference Seminary, at Cazenovia. Thereafter he continued to give his attention principally to teaching, until there came to him the opportunity of voicing his ardent patriotism in direct military service after the Civil war had been precipitated on a divided nation.

In August, 1862, Mr. LaSelle enlisted as a private in Company D, One Hundred and Fourteenth New York Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Elisha B. Smith, and with this gallant regiment he lived up to the full tension of vigorous campaign activities incidental to the operations of the Department of the Gulf. Always to be found at the post of duty, he was made a non-commissioned officer and in his earnest and efficient service gained the unequivocal commendation of his superior officers, the while he had the confidence and respect of his comrades in arms. He was finally assigned to detached commissary duty in the city of New Orleans, where he had charge of thirteen hundred men, but near the close of the war he rejoined his regiment, while it was in service under General Hancock in the Shenandoah valley of Virginia. After the assassination of President Lincoln the regiment proceeded to the national capital, were it was assigned to guard duty during the period in which the assassin, Booth, was captured and tried, and finally it was Mr. LaSelle's privilege to participate with his regiment in the Grand Review of the victorious Union troops in Washington, after the close of the war. He then returned with his comrades to New York state, and there, in the city of Elmira, he received his honorable discharge in June, 1865. As a soldier he participated in General Banks' expedition to the Gulf of Mexico and in the Teche campaign to the west of New Orleans. With his command he was continuously under fire for forty-two days, incidental to the siege and final capture of Port Hudson, and he took part also in the battle of Donaldsonville and in the Franklin expedition to Sabine Pass, in the meanwhile participating in numerous engagements of minor order.

Mr. LaSalle passed the winter of 1865-1866 in the city of New York, but in the early spring was called home to the bedside of his dying mother, who passed away March 20, 1866. In April, 1866, Mr. LaSelle again set forth for the west, and he first located at St. Joseph, Missouri, where he passed about one year, giving his attention to railroad work and real-estate operations. In the meanwhile he visited Nebraska, which was soon to pass from territorial to state regime, and in this sojourn he entered claim to a tract of government land near Beatrice, Gage county, the future city having at that time been a little frontier hamlet with about twenty buildings, a few of them primitive business establishments. In addition to his homestead claim Mr. LaSelle secured land by purchase also, and besides making provision for the improving of his land he purchased a stock of general merchandise and engaged in business as one of the pioneer merchants of Beatrice, where he continued operations in this line about fifteen years, his store having stood on the site now occupied by the depot of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. In 1882 Mr. LaSelle initiated operations in the real-estate

business, and through this medium he assisted in bringing many desirable settlers to this section of the state, besides contributing in a general way to civic and industrial progress. He still continues a representative of this line of enterprise, but does not attempt to carry on operations as actively as in former years. As before noted, he has served since 1910 as justice of the peace, and he has made the office justify its name. A man of broad mental ken, he decides each case according to the dictates of justice and equity and without fear or favor, so that very few of his rulings have met with reversal by courts of higher jurisdiction.

Judge LaSelle cast his first presidential vote in 1860, for Abraham Lincoln, and when on furlough from service in the Civil war, in 1864, he voted for the martyred president again, on the occasion of his second election. Since that time he has never failed to support every presidential candidate of the Republican party and thus all of the presidential candidates of the party save its very first, General John C. Fremont, has found him aligned as a staunch supporter. He perpetuates the most gracious memories and association of his military career by retaining affiliation with Rawlins Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in which noble patriotic organization at Beatrice he has been an influential and honored member during virtually the entire period of its history. He has been for many years a zealous member of the Presbyterian church, as was also his wife.

In the year 1875 was solemnized the marriage of Judge LaSelle to Mrs. Elizabeth (Campbell) Crawford, widow of William G. Crawford, of Council Bluffs, Iowa. She was born in Brown county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Martin M. and Sarah B. (Walker) Campbell. After her first marriage she and her husband resided for a time in Nebraska, in the territorial days, and Mr. Crawford served as a member of the territorial legislature in 1857-1858. Soon thereafter Mr. and Mrs. Crawford established their residence at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he continued in the practice of his profession until his death, as one of the representative members of the bar of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford became the parents of one daughter, Kittie C. The Crawfords were neighbors and close friends of the late General Grenville M. Dodge, and upon the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad Miss Kittie C. Crawford accompanied the General over the line to the Pacific coast, as guest on his private car, besides which General Dodge also entertained Mrs. Crawford and her husband, Judge LaSelle, after her second marriage. Of this second union no children were born, but the closest of ties link Mr. LaSelle and his stepdaughter, who has ever accorded to him the utmost filial affection. The supreme loss and bereavement in the long and useful life of Judge LaSelle came when his gracious and devoted wife was summoned to eternal rest, her death having occurred January 11, 1916, and her memory being revered by all who came within the sphere of her gentle and kindly influence.

JAMES M. HOWE, a prosperous farmer in Section 8, Liberty township, was born May 22, 1885, near Tuscola, Illinois, and is a son of William and Harriet (Lester) Howe.

William Howe was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1828, and died in 1892. He was a farmer, and at the time of the gold excitement in California he went to that state, in 1850. There he prospered for a time, returning to Illinois with about four thousand dollars. Mr. and Mrs. Howe became the parents of eight children, as follows: James M., the subject of this review; John S., of Miles City, Montana; Perry, of Tuscola, Illinois; Etta, wife of James Drennen, of Osceola, Iowa; Effie, wife of J. C. Reed, professor of schools at White City, Wisconsin; Charles, a farmer near Champaign, Illinois; Leona, wife of W. H. Joseph, of Tuscola, Illinois; and Lora, wife of William Robertson, an attorney at Mount Vernon, Ohio.

William Howe was a Republican and for several years was supervisor for his district. He came to Illinois in very moderate circumstances and was a very successful farmer. The American progenitors of the Howe family were natives of England and came to America

and settled in Kentucky about the time of Daniel Boone.

James M. Howe was educated in the public schools of Tuscola, Illinois, and remained in that state until 1883, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Gage county. In 1883 he was united in marriage to Miss Lulu Longshore, of Kansas. She was born in Madison county, Iowa, a daughter of Samuel Longshore, who was a harnessmaker by trade and who was a captain in the Civil war, during the entire period of which he valiantly served, he having enlisted in 1861.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Howe are the parents of five children: Ethel, wife of Roy Palmer, a civil engineer living in Los Angeles, California; Roy W., on his father's farm; Merle, wife of Charles H. Stoll, an attorney of Long Island, New York; and Frank R., now (spring of 1918) located at Camp Dick, New Jersey. Frank R. Howe is a graduate of Plattsburg, New York, training camp and also of Manhattan, Kansas, Military School. He is now a lieutenant and expects to go to France in the aviation corps. He was employed in the National City Bank of New York for about two years. James B., the youngest of the children, is attending school and living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe are members of the Presbyterian church. He is a Mason, belonging to the lodge of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons at Barneston and to the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Council of Royal and Select Masters at Wymore, this county. He served as supervisor during 1890-1891 and 1892. In 1883 Mr. Howe bought one hundred and sixty acres of government land, and he has added to this from time to time until he now owns eight hundred and eighty acres. He has improved this land, has erected a fine farm home and good farm buildings and does a general farming business. He is president of the Commercial Bank of Barneston.

JOHN E. JONES a pioneer and successful farmer in Section 8, Barneston township, was born in Wales, August 30, 1854, son of Evan and Martha (Jones) Jones, both of whom passed their lives in Wales, where Mr. Jones was a farmer and well-to-do citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Evan Jones had six children, as follows: Richard G., a stock man in Alberta, Canada; Edward C., a farmer in Alberta, Canada; Jane married and living in Wales; John E., of this sketch; and two others, who live in Wales.

John E. Jones was educated in Wales, and after coming to America attended school in Iowa, where he established his residence in 1872. He worked on farms and in 1879 he came to Gage county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, for which he paid the Government three and one-half dollars an acre. This land is in Section 8, Barneston township, where he now makes his home, and he has developed the property into a valuable farm.

In 1891 Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Jones, and further record concerning her family will be found in the sketch of John S. Jones, elsewhere in this volumn.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Jones are the parents of three children, — Amwell E., county agent of Jewell county, Kansas. E. G., now in Lincoln college, learning telegraphy with the intention of soon going into the army as operator; and Evan, in Wymore high school.

Mr. Jones and family are members of the Welsh church, and in politics Mr. Jones is a Republican. He is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, which he has accumulated by his own effort, and he has on the property good buildings and other improvements.

ISAAC REID — The subject of this record was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, December 13, 1859. His parents George and Rachel (Gibler) Reid, were natives of Ohio, in which state their marriage was solemnized. Soon after this event they became residents of Whiteside county, Illinois, where the father purchased a farm, and there they made their home until 1877, when they came to Gage county, Nebraska. Here Mr. Reid became a successful farmer, spending the rest of his days in Island Grove township. He and his

wife were members of the Methodist church and in politics he was a Republican. He served in various township officers, including those of justice of the peace and road overseer. Of the seven children five are still living: Christian, a farmer of Island Grove township; William, a resident of Thomas county, Kansas; John, of Phillips county, Kansas; Isaac, subject of this sketch; and James, of Oklahoma.

Isaac Reid was a young man of eighteen years when the home was established in Nebraska and his education had been acquired in the public schools of Illinois. On reaching manhood he became an independent farmer and he is to-day the owner of one hundred and twenty acres, with good improvements, all of which have been placed here by him. He does general farming and is meeting with deserved success. His farm is in Island Grove township.

February 6, 1896, Mr. Reid was united in marriage to Miss Beryl Avison, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, a daughter of George and Ann Elizabeth (Ayre) Avison, natives of England, the former born in Lincolnshire and the latter in Yorkshire. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Reid has been blessed with one child, George, who is still under the parental roof. The members of the family are all members of the Christian church and all active workers in the same. In politics Mr. Reid is a Republican and he has rendered efficient service as a member of the school board and as road overseer. Mr. Ried is a progressive and public-spirited in citizenship, successful as an agriculturist and can always be relied upon to give his support to any worthy cause.

JOHN FRITZEN was seventeen years of age when he came with his parents to Gage county and in here initiating his independent career as a farmer virtually his sole equipment consisted of a team of horses that had been given to him by his father. Of his achievement in the intervening years tangible evidence is given in his ownership of a well improved farm estate of four hundred acres, in Logan township, his home place, comprising two hundred and forty acres, being in Section 15, and the remaining constituent portion of his estate being the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Section 21, in the same township, which is operated by his older son.

Mr. Fritzen was born in Brown county, Illinois, on the 28th of February, 1865, and is a son of Lammert and Sophia (Rines) Fritzen, the former of whom was born in Friesland, Province of Hanover, Germany, and the latter of whom was likewise a native of Germany, their marriage having been solemnized in Brown county, Illinois. Lammert Fritzen was reared and educated in his native province and was sixteen years of age when he came to the United States and settled in Brown county, Illinois. There he continued his association with farm enterprise until 1882, when he came with his family to Nebraska and rented a farm in Gage county. Later he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Logan township, and this he developed into one of the excellent farms of that township. After his retirement from the farm he established his residence in the city of Beatrice, and he is now living in the home of his son John, of this review, vigorous and alert in both physical and mental powers and constantly finding opportunity to do active work about the farm, though he celebrated in 1917 the seventy-seventh anniversary of his birth, his loved wife having passed away at the age of sixty years, a lifelong member of the Lutheran church, of which he likewise is a zealous communicant. His parents, John and Etta (Boden) Fritzen, passed the closing years of their lives in Gage county.

John Fritzen acquired his early education in the public schools of Illinois and there learned in his youth the varied details of farm industry. After coming to Gage county he assisted in the work of his father's farm, doing effective service in connection with its reclamation and development, and at the age of twenty-two years he began independent operations as a farmer, as previously intimated in this article. When he became the owner of his present fine homestead farm the buildings on the place were of insignificant order, but he has erected a modern house, barns and

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other buildings that mark the place as being one of the best improved farms of Logan township. The old house is now used as a granary and the original prairie stable that was on the place is still standing. Mr. Fritzen has been an energetic and successful agriculturist and stock-grower, has had no desire to extend his influence along political lines or to serve in public office, but he has been loyal and liberal in support of measures projected for the general good of the community and is independent in his political attitude. His civic loyalty caused him to give effective service when he was called upon to assume the position of school director, and the same was true in connection with his service as road overseer in his township. Both he and his wife were reared in the faith of the Lutheran church, of which she was a devoted member until her death, June 13, 1905, and of which he continues an active adherent.

In 1894 Mr. Fritzen married Miss Marie Frerichs, who was born in Illinois and reared in Gage county, Nebraska. She is a daughter of L. W. Frerichs, of whom specific mention is made on other pages. She is survived by six children: Lammert J., as before intimated, has the active management of the second farm owned by his father in Logan township; William is associated in the management of the homestead place; Sophia is the wife of Frederick Lineman, a farmer in Hanover township; and Marie, Lena and John, Jr., remain at the paternal home.

JOHN A. McMURRAY. — The home of Mr. and Mrs. John A. McMurray has been established in Section 15, Liberty township, for the past thirty-five years and while they have contributed of their best to the agricultural and social growth of the community, they have also grown in the esteem and friendship of their fellows. They have reared a family of six children, five of whom are living and honorably filling their places in life. The firstborn was William, who was called to his eternal home at the age of fifteen years; Lawrence was the next in order of birth and he is a prosperous farmer of Liberty township; Frances is the wife of J. R. Spicer, a merchant of Beatrice; George is a farmer of Liberty township; and Aruthr is farming one-half mile east of his father's home place.

John A. McMurray was born February 14, 1842, in Washington county, New York, the place of his birth being the old homestead of his parents, William and Maria (Taylor) McMurray. The old homestead is now owned by William M. McMurray, the only other living son of the five children born to this couple. William McMurray was born in Washington county, New York, the son of Francis McMurray, a scion of Scotch-Irish ancestors who came to this country when General George Washington was president of the new republic and who established a home in Washington county, New York, where the family tree has been continuously represented to this day. William McMurray, the father of John A. McMurray, became a very successful farmer and left to his sons a heritage that helped them to their success in life. He married Maria Taylor, the daughter of John Taylor, who was born in Ireland and who came to Washington county, New York, where he farmed and where his death occured. John Taylor was only eighteen years of age at the time of his coming and here he married. His daughter, Maria (Taylor) McMurray, and her husband spent their lives on the homestead in New York.

John A. McMurray was educated in the schools of Argyle, New York and in the Argyle Academy. In 1862 he was united in marriage to one who has been his loved companion for more than fifty-six years, — Mary J. McFadden, who was born in Argyle, New York, the only child of Isaiah and Margaret (McFadden) McFadden, who are long since deceased. In 1867, Mr. and Mrs. McMurray left their friends and relatives in the old Empire state and cast in their lot with the farmers of Jasper county, Iowa. There they continued their farming operations until 1883, when they came to Gage county, Nebraska, and established their home on Section 15, Liberty township, where Mr. McMurray pur-

chased from the government three hundred and twenty acres of land. The scenes and condtions of that day were quite different from those which meet their gaze to-day. No more do the sod houses grace the soil, but well built, modern houses; no more the oxen, but the automobile; no more the wild prairie, but now the broad fields of waving grain.

Mr. and Mrs. McMurray are members of the Congregational church and for many years Mr. McMurray has been a stalwart of the Republican party, retaining the same political views as his father before him. He is a member of the district school board and with his good wife is enjoying the esteem and friendship of their associates of many years in Gage county.

BENJAMIN KROOS is a prosperous farmer of Riverside township, where he is the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of land. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, May 8, 1859, and is a son of Stephen and Elizabeth (Leiwesmeier) Kroos, who passed their entire lives in their native land, where the father was a farmer. Stephen Kroose was born in 1810 and died in 1877; his wife was born in 1824 and died in 1902. They were devout members of the Catholic church. Of the six children born to them two have established their homes in the United States, — Benjamin, the subject of this sketch, and Henry, who lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Joseph, Anna, Stephen and Mary still live in their native country.

Benjamin Kroos was educated in his native land and at his father's side he learned the art of intensive farming. When he arrived in the United States, in 1881, he very easily procured work as a farm hand in Logan county, Illinois. In 1886 he came to Gage county, where he farmed on rented land until 1890, when he purchased the Moses farm, in Section 36, Riverside township. In 1893 he sold this land and purchased land in Thayer county, where he was engaged in farming until 1896, when he returned to Gage county. For four years he rented land in Lincoln township. In 1900 he purchased his present farm, of four hundred and twenty acres, and since then he has confined his efforts to the upbuilding of a large, well cultivated farm property.

May 6, 1889, Benjamin Kroos married Miss Lina Grabher, who was born in Illinois, January 2, 1868. She is a daughter of Joseph and Lena (Simon) Grobher, the former of whom was born in 1834 and died January 3, 1918, at Charles Wible's home. The mother was born in 1834 and died June 12, 1871. Joseph Grabher was married the second time, to Barbara Stueber (See Charles Wible sketch for further history.) Mr. and Mrs. Kroos became the parents of five children: Amelia died at the age of four years; and George, Lewis, Joseph and Elizabeth are at the parental home. The children have received good educational advantages, and the three sons are helping their father with his extensive farming operations.

Mr. and Mrs. Kroos and family are members of the Catholic church at Beatrice, and his political views are in harmony with the principles of the Republican party.

RENKEN LENERS was a lad of seven years at the time when his father immigrated to America from the picturesque province of Friesland, in the extreme northeastern part of the Province of Hanover, Germany, where he was born July 12, 1851. Little could the wide-eyed boy have anticipated that destiny had it in store for him not only to become a pioneer of Gage county, Nebraska, but also to achieve here secure vantage-ground as one of the substantial farmers and valued citizens of Logan township, where his admirably improved farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, is situated in Section 10. Mr. Leners is a son of Renken and Etta (Schwers)) Leners, the latter of whom died in Germany. Renken Leners, Sr., came to America in 1858 and settled in Adams county, Illinois, where he acquired land and eventually became a successful farmer. There he continued his residence until his death.

He whose name initiates this article acquired his early education in the schools of Illinois, where also he became familiar with the

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various details of farm work. In 1878, in company with his younger brother, John, he came to Gage county, and in shipping their household goods the two received an aggregate rebate of cost in the sum of thirty dollars. The brothers divided this sum, and the amount received by Renken represented at the time his sole cash capital, though his possessions included three mules, some hogs, a few chickens and a small assortment of tools and implements, all brought from Illinois. He had rented before coming to Gage county a tract of land in Hanover township, the same having been owned by a man residing at Galesburg, Illinois. In a primitive pioneer home he installed his household goods and with his wife and their three children to spur his efforts, he vigorously prosecuted his activities as a pioneer farmer, with determination to win independence and definite prosperity. When he finally purchased his present farm the land was raw prairie, and he has developed the place into one of the fine farm properties of the county. His first plow was purchased of John Wagner, at Beatrice, and before taking it home he made a trial of the implement by plowing along the road by the site of the present Beatrice National Bank on the one side and the Paddock hotel on the other. At that time there were no buildings there, and Court street was like a country road. He had his share of hardships and reverses incidental to pioneer life, with losses by drought and grasshopper scourge, but he was not to be dismayed and pressed forward earnestly to the goal of prosperity. He has aided in the general progress of the county along civic and industrial lines and has been at all times firmly entrenched in popular confidence and good will in his home community. His political support is given to the Republican party, he served twenty-five years as school director of his district, and both he and his wife became earnest communicants of the Lutheran church while still in youth. He has been a trustee and treasurer of the church for twenty-five years.

In Adams county, Illinois, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Leners to Miss Amanda Schuster, who was born in Germany, January 21, 1849, and the supreme loss and bereavement in his life came when his devoted wife was summoned to eternal rest, on the 26th of January, 1915. They became the parents of nine children: Renken, Jr., remains at the paternal home; Maggie is the wife of John Fossler, of Logan township; Menne died at the age of five years; John R., the maiden name of whose wife was Emma Fossler, is a farmer in Logan township; Etta is the widow of Martin Kaspers and is housekeeper for her father — she has a daughter, Amanda, born January 19, 1905; Menne, who is a farmer in Logan township, married Miss Sarah Cramer; and three died in childhood.

JOHN L. GERDES. — In East Friesland, Germany, the family home of Gerd and Trintae (Janssen) Gerdes was established, and there Gerd Gerdes plied his trade of shoemaker, bending over his bench day by day. Many of his friends and acquaintances were leaving the homeland for the shores of America, where it was said there were vast fertile lands to be tilled and won to cultivation if one were willing to work hard and long. Mr. Gerdes decided that, with his sons' help, he, too could win a better living in the New World. Consequently, in 1869, they had settled on a farm in Missouri, and until his death he there tilled the soil. His wife, Trintae (Janssen) Gerdes, bore him seven children, four of whom are living: Teta is a widow and makes her home with her brother Gerd, who is a farmer of Barneston township; Tena is the widow of John Helmrics and lives in Barneston township; and John L. is the subject of this sketch.

John L. Gerdes was born March 10, 1848, in East Friesland, Germany, and was a young man of twenty-one years when his parents established their home in Missouri. He helped with the farming of his father's land and later purchased land for himself. This he farmed until his coming to Gage county, in 1883. In 1882 he had purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Barneston township, and in 1883 came to improve it and make it yield its treasures of wheat and corn.

In 1886 Mr. Gerdes chose as his wife Miss Grace Boschen, who is a native of Germany and who came to this country in 1886. They are the parents of ten children: Gerd L., the firstborn, is at the parental home, as is also John O.; Lubbe operates one of his father's farms; Henry, Fred, Tena, William, Carl, Ida, and Marie are all under the parental roof and taking their share of the burden of tilling the soil and at the various other responsibilities of the farm and the home.

Mr. Gerdes and his family are members of the Lutheran church and the local edifice, dedicated to the worship of God, is on five acres of land donated by Mr. Gerdes. In politics Mr. Gerdes follows the lead of the Democratic party and he has served as a member of the school board of his district for twenty years.

Mr. Gerdes, exemplifies the fact that a man can become more than ordinarily well-to-do if he is made of the right stuff and is willing to sacrifice present pleasure for future good. From time to time Mr. Gerdes has added to his original purchase of one hundred and twenty acres and he is now the sole owner of four hundred and thirty-five acres in Gage county and two hundred acres in Kansas. The days when he established his home in Gage county were the days of hard struggles against the whims and caprices of nature and the loneliness of the pioneer days. He is now enjoying the fruits of those early days of labor, and his posterity will not only enjoy them also but will be able to carry on his work with newer methods and greater opportunities for service to mankind.

WIENS BROTHERS. — Jacob and Frank Wiens are two energetic young farmers, jointly operating three hundred and twenty acres of land in Sections 24 and 25, Lincoln township. They are specializing in dairying and the feeding of beef cattle for the market, and are the rising dairy farmers of their township. They are the sons of Peter and Anna (Jansen) Wiens. Peter Wiens is a native of Germany, where he was born October 16, 1850, and his wife was born June 9, 1860. In 1888 Mr. Wiens with his young wife and their two children came across the Atlantic and cast in their lot with the many other immigrants of German extraction in Gage county, Nebraska. Upon his arrival in the county he was employed by his brother-in-law, Jacob Claassen, as a laborer on the farm. Later he rented land until he was able to purchase one hundred and seventy-eight acres, in Blakely township, where he is now doing a general farming business. Since the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Wiens in this country nine more children have been born to them, and all of the eleven children are living: John is a farmer in Midland township; Mary is the housekeeper for her brothers Jacob and Frank; Jacob is one of the two subjects of this sketch; Peter is living in Hubbell, Thayer county; Herman resides at Bayard, Morrill county; Frank is the associate subject of this review; and Henry, Agatha, Ernest, Gerhard, and Anna are at home with their parents.

Jacob Wiens was born September 25, 1887, in Riverside township, and his brother Frank was born September 24, 1893, in Saline county, Nebraska. The brothers received the educational advantages of the rural schools and German parochial schools, and they became experienced farmers by helping their father in his farming operations. The farmer is the most necessary individual in our social organization, as we are constantly in need of food and clothing and the farmer is growing the food for the men who are turning his raw materials into the manufactured articles. These two young men are doing the share of the work most necessary, "behind the lines," for the conduct of the great world war in which we are engaged. They are Republicans in politics and are members of the Mennonite church.

JOHN R. SIBLE. — As one of the many thrifty Bohemian farmers who have settled in Elm township, Gage county, John R. Sible merits representation in this history. Mr. Sible was born March 6, 1874, in Johnson county, Iowa, and came to Gage county with his parents when he was a child of four years, so it can well be said that he is essentially a

Gage county man. His parents, Frank and Anna (Sible) Sible, are natives of Bohemia and are farming land in Section 27, Elm township. Frank Sible was born in Bohemia, May 28, 1843, and is a son of Joseph and Katie Sible, who left their native home, among the Slavonic peoples of central Europe, and cast in their fortunes with the farming people of Johnson county, Iowa. When they retired from active farming their home was made in Iowa City, Iowa, from which place they were called to the life eternal.

In 1879 Frank Sible came with his family to Gage county, Nebraska and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Elm township. He built a board shanty and constructed a sod barn for his cattle and beasts of burden. He and his wife were willing to deprive themselves of comforts and luxuries for the present, that the future might bring greater ease and prosperity. They are today enjoying the fruits of their frugality and labors of those early years. Their marriage was solemnized in 1870, in Iowa. Mrs. Sible is a daughter of James and Josephine Sible, who were natives of Bohemia and had tilled the soil in Iowa prior to coming to Gage county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. They have three sons, — Frank, living at Odell; John, the subject of this review; and George, likewise a resident of Gage county. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sible have retired from active farming and now reside in the village of Odell. They have, as the years have passed, added to their land holdings until now they own four hundred acres of land. Both are members of the Catholic church.

John R. Sible spent his boyhood and young manhood in the home of his parents and helped in the winning of of the wilderness to productivity. He is now operating one hundred and twenty acres of his father's landed estate. He has made extensive improvements on his farm and each year is feeding great numbers of cattle for the market.

November 22, 1899, recorded the marriage of John R. Sible and Miss Bessie Kunc and they became the parents of four children, of whom the second child is deceased. The others — Mabel, Irma, and Sylvia — are receiving all of the educational advantages of the public schools. Mrs. Sible was born in Bohemia, June 28, 1876. Her parents are retired farmers living at Wilber, Nebraska. She is a daughter of Frank and Anna (Broz) Kunc, who came from Bohemia and who settled in Johnson county, Nebraska, about 1893. They continued their farming operations until their retirement to Wilber.

The political views of Mr. Sible are independent, that is to say that the character of the man that is put up by either party has more weight in gaining Mr. Sible's vote than the party that is vouching for his eligibility to the office. With the members of his family he holds to the faith of the Catholic church.

MATTHEW W. RYAN, superintendent of schools at Barneston, Nebraska, was born in Port Henry, New York, April 23, 1880. He is the son of Patrick B. Ryan and Margaret (Cleary) Ryan.

Both Patrick B. Ryan and Margaret Cleary came from Ireland with their parents in 1835 and settled in New York state, where they received their early education and where they were married. Patrick B. Ryan moved with his family to Gage county, Nebraska, in the year 1883 and settled on a farm two miles west of Liberty, where he resided until the time of his death, in 1915. Margaret Ryan is still living and makes her home with her son Matthew. Of their children five are living: Mrs. P. Carver, of Burchard, Nebraska; Mrs. M. J. Carver, of Bassett, Nebraska, Mrs. Tim Rawley, of Barneston; Mrs. George Humphrey, of Fairbury, Nebraska; and Matthew W. Ryan, of Barneston, Nebraska.

In 1911 Matthew W. Ryan was married to Jessie Irwin, of Hubbell, Nebraska. They have one boy, Irwin, now three years of age (1918). Mr. Ryan is the owner of his father's old homestead, but devotes his entire time to his profession.

Matthew Ryan was educated in school district No. 126, Gage county, was graduated from the Liberty high school, and in 1907 was graduated from the Peru State Normal. He-

was then superintendent of schools at Greeley, Nebraska, for three years. Later he attended two years at the Nebraska State University.

CLARENCE L. SHAFER. — That Gage county offers splendid inducements to those who wish to engage in agricultural pursuits is attested by the fact that many of her native sons have chosen to remain within her borders and by improving their opportunities have been rewarded with success. Among this number mention should be made of the gentleman whose name introduces this record.

Clarence L. Shafer was born on the farm which is now his home, his natal day being September 17, 1871. His parents were D. W. and Mary (Spitznale) Shafer, the former of whom was born in Ohio, and the latter in Virginia.

In 1867, the year that Nebraska became a state, D. W. Shafer came west, making the trip in true pioneer style, in a covered wagon, and he established a home in Gage county. He took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, eighty of which lay in Gage county and eighty in Pawnee county. As we hear the few early settlers recount the story of pioneer times, marked by hardships and privations, it is only just to such men that a record be made of their achievements and success. From a wild and unbroken prairie D. W. Shafer developed a good farm. He reared a family of eight children, and made his home on the old farm as long as he lived, his death occurring here June 24, 1911, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was born July 8, 1843. His wife, who was born December 22, 1849, passed away October 24, 1912. Both were members of the Christian church and were people of real, genuine worth. Of their eight children seven are living: Auta is the wife of Leon Doty, and they reside in Pawnee county; Cora is the wife of Rev. Sherman McClure, who is a minister of the Christian church, now located at Deming, New Mexico, and who for two years was state evangelist for Nebraska; Clarence L., the subject of this review, was next in order of birth; O. D. is a farmer near Belgrade, Nance county, Nebraska; John is a professor in the schools of Grand River, Iowa; Estella is the wife of Thomas Thomas, a farmer at Litchfield, Nebraska; and Lois is the wife of Orva Ripley, of Beatrice, Nebraska.

Clarence L. Shafer was reared on the farm, attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education, this being supplemented by his attending Cotner University, of Bethany, Nebraska, for one year. He chose for a life work the calling to which he had been reared and as a boy under the instructions of his father began learning the best methods of tilling the soil, planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops, so that as he reached man's estate he was well fortified for becoming a farmer on his own account. He is the owner of a valuable tract of three hundred and sixty acres, eighty of which are in Gage county, the balance lying across the line in Pawnee county. Aside from raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he deals in registered Hereford cattle, and both branches of his business yield him substantial income. He is progressive and practical in his methods and on his place are to be found three sets of farm buildings.

As a companion and helpmeet Mr. Shafer chose Miss Lora Freel, a native of Missouri, who passed away in 1901, leaving two children: Opal, the wife of Russell Welsh, on one of Mr. Shafer's farms in Pawnee county; and Hubert, still at home engaged in farming for himself. Mr. Shafer's second marriage was with Miss Alma Paulsen, a native of Davenport, Iowa, and they have four children: Dale, Glenn, Evelyn, and John.

The family are members of the Christian church and in politics Mr. Shafer is independent.

FREDERICK D. KRITER, a successful farmer and one of the old-time residents of Paddock township, is a sterling citizen who well merits recognition in this history. Mr. Kriter was born in Lake county, Illinois, November 14, 1860, a son of George Kriter, who was a native of Alsace-Lorraine. When a young man of thirty-two years of age George

MR AND MRS. FREDERICK D. KRITTER

Kriter came to America and settled in Lake county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade — that of carpenter. He was employed in Chicago when the population of that city was numbered by thousands instead of the millions of to-day. From Illinois Mr. Kriter moved to Minnesota, and in that state enlisted in a regiment of Minnesota volunteer infantry, with which he served three years in the Union army during the Civil war. He was in several battles and received injuries which compelled him to enter a hospital at Washington, D. C., where his family joined him later. Among the earliest recollections of the subject of this sketch are those of the two windows in the room where they stayed in Washington and from which they could hear the roar of cannon. One daughter was born during the family's stay in the capital city. After the war Mr. Kriter returned to Minnesota, where he joined his brother-in-law on a farm near Fairbault. During the last three years of their residence in Minnesota the grasshoppers destroyed their crops, and Mr. Kriter moved with his family to Marshall county, Kansas. They were very poor and Mr. Kriter and family worked at anything to be found. On the anniversary of Mrs. Kriter's birthday they came to Gage county, Nebraska, June 14, 1880, and here he took squatter's claim to forty acres of land in Section 10, Paddock township. On the day of their arrival the family planted some tomatoes and other garden truck and prepared to make their home. Their first abode was a tent, which was later blown away in a wind storm. They then built a dug-out, on the south slope of a hill where the present house stands. Too poor to buy the land, they held squatter's sovereignty for two years. Then they were able to enter the land and make a payment on the same. A better house was later erected and as soon as circumstances justified such action Mr. Kriter bought an additional forty acres, adjoining his original farm. Here he made his home until his death, which occurred when he was fifty-five years of age. He had, in the meanwhile, taken a homestead in Kansas, but he died before he had proved up on the property. His son proved up on the land by complying with the law in regard to duration of abode on the property.

George Kriter was united in marriage to Barbara Erb, who likewise was born in Alsace-Lorraine and who had come to America with her parents when a child. She had the experience of being left alone with a family of children while her husband was with the army at the front. She shared with him the hardships of the early pioneer days, aided in establishing their home, and became one of Gage county's pioneer women. Here she resided until the time of her death, at the age of forty-nine years. For many years Mrs. Kriter and her husband were members of the Lutheran church, but before her death she joined the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Kriter were the parents of seven children, as follows: Frederick D.; Emma, wife of A. N. Horn, of Emporia, Kansas; Lena, wife of Daniel Wagner, of Quincy, Kansas; Edith, deceased wife of Thomas Bloomfield; Charles, who died at the age of twenty-four years; George, of Oklahoma; and Mary, wife of E. C. Marks, of Emporia, Kansas.

Frederick D. Kriter accompanied his parents on their several removals and was a young man of twenty when they came to Gage county. At the age of twenty-one he found employment with the Union Pacific Railroad for about three months, and he then became a member of a construction crew engaged in building the Burlington Railroad. He was one of the gang who, on that memorable Sunday, drove the last spike of the line extending the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad from the Missouri river to Denver, Colorado. After two years of this work Mr. Kriter purchased eighty acres in Section 11, Paddock township, adjoining his father's farm. For thirty-five years he has been one of the successful farmers of the township. After the death of his parents he purchased the interest of the other heirs and became the owner of the old home place. This he further improved, and the present buildings have all been erected by him, replacing the humbler ones erected by his father. Mr. Kriter is to-day

the owner of five hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, which places him among the men of affluence in his adopted county.

For companion and helpmate Mr. Kriter chose Miss Lillie Baughman, who was born at Effingham, Illinois, a daughter of Philip and Jemima Baughman, now deceased. To this union seven children were born: Nellie is the wife of Frank Fulton, of Wymore, this county; George, Minnie, and Luella are at home; Elsie is the wife of Earl Slocum, of Diller, Nebraska; and Fred and Jesse are at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Kriter are members of the Methodist church and in politics Mr. Kriter is a Republican. He has served fourteen years as member of the school board of his district, and has filled also the position of road overseer. At Wymore he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the adjunct organization, the Daughters of Rebekah, and also of the Knights & Ladies of Security. By industry and careful management Mr. Kriter has achieved success, and his support for a worthy cause can always be relied upon.

RICHMOND KIVETT. — One of the earliest settlers of Gage county was Richmond Kivett, who was called from his labors March 6, 1880. In the year 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Kivett came to Gage county and settled on a homestead in Section 24, Liberty township, and Mrs. Kivett has continuously made her home upon this same land since those far-away pioneer days.

Richmond Kivett was born May 16, 1834, in Tennessee, and August 24, 1856, he married Miss Nancy Johnson, who is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Sharp) Johnson, the former born in Georgia Purchase and the latter in Tennessee. They farmed in Tennessee, where were born their children, three of whom ar living — Mrs. Kivett, the widow of the subject of this memoir; William H., retired and living in Missouri; and Elizabeth, the widow of Joseph Vittoe, residing in Colorado.

For some time prior to establishing his home in Gage county Richmond Kivett farmed in Tennessee, where he also operated a saw mill. He came with his family to Gage county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Liberty township. His sons and daughters grew to maturity upon Gage county soil, participating in the young life and duties of their associates. They are as follows: Milton and Alvis, who are at home, operating the farm for their mother, are not married; Rosanna is the wife of E. H. Lynch, residing in Oregon; Rhoda is the wife of L. S. Dalton, a farmer of Randolph, Nebraska; Nathaniel C. is a large cattle man of Austin, Nevada; Henry Sherman is a farmer near Freedom, Nebraska; Bertha E. is the wife of I. M. Fisher, residing near Liberty, Gage county; and Nathan R. is a cigar maker at Wilber, Saline county.

Richmond Kivett added to his land holdings as the years of his residence in Gage county increased, and at the time of his death he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a Republican in politics and was a man who was loved by all his neighbors and friends. He did not live to see the progress that time has made in the county, but his sons have taken the burden where he laid it aside and have continued to add to the material and civic wealth of the county. They have replaced the crude sod house with a home of substantial proportions and conveniences and have provided the other necessary farm buildings, to accommodate their growing herds of cattle and their productions of wheat and corn. Their mother, with the days of youth gone by and the sunset side of life still so bright and joyous, is still their housekeeper, still their guide and counselor. For over a half century she has made Gage county her home, her interests have been tangibly connected with the interests of the county and she has always taken a keen interest in all of its affairs.

HARRY H. DARNER. — One of the successful farmers of Island Grove township is the subject of this record and he has been a resident of Gage county for thirty-four years.

Harry H. Darner was born in Washington

county, Iowa, December 6, 1858, a son of Andrew and Jane (Haywood) Darner. The father was a native of the Buckeye state, born near Zenia, Ohio, April 17, 1817, while the birth of the mother occurred in New Jersey, December 13, 1817. They were united in marriage in Ohio and became residents of Washington county, Iowa, in 1848. In early life Mr. Darner was a carpenter, and he worked at that trade until 1861, when he purchased a farm and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1884 he came to Nebraska, establishing his home at Blue Springs, Gage county. He passed away at the home of his son Harry H., November 14, 1900. The mother was called to her final rest June 9, 1897. They were members of the Baptist church and in politics he was a Democrat. He was a successful man and was self-made. Of the eight children four are living: Amelia is the wife of Robert A. Wilson, of Blue Springs; Sarah is the wife of J. F. Robertson, a government inspector, residing at South Omaha; Charles J. is a farmer in Clay county, Kansas; and Harry H. is the subject of this sketch.

Harry H. Darner was reared on a farm in his native county, attended the district schools and became a farmer. In 1884 he came to Gage county, and at Blue Springs he found employment as a teamster. He finally purchased eighty acres of land in Island Grove township, his resources being at such a low ebb that he was obliged to buy on time. By industry and good management he has succeeded in making his tract one of the valuable farms of the township. He has erected excellent buildings and made other good improvements and is engaged in general farming. He has extended the area of his acreage by an additional purchase and is now the owner of a quarter-section of land.

February 25, 1899, Mr. Darner was united in marriage to Miss Lena Sandritter, a daughter of Henry and Margaret (Yetter) Sandritter, natives of Germany, who came to Gage county in 1868 and took up a homestead in Blakely township: a number of years later they moved to Blue Springs, where their last days were spent. Mr. Sandritter was born in Waldolph, Baden, Germany, May 17, 1830. He came to America in 1854 and resided in Illinois until coming to Nebraska. He was a stone mason by trade and among other structures in Gage county which he helped to build is the Burwood hotel at Beatrice. In 1861, at Peoria, Illinois, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, and he rendered valiant aid as a soldier of the Union until 1865. He died at Blue Springs, November 6, 1903. His wife was born at Volmervelen, Germany, in 1837, and passed away November 17, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Darner have two children: Mabel is the wife of R. L. Ernhart, a farmer of Island Grove township, and they have three children: Neva, Hope, and Wayne. Pearl L. is the wife of L. W. Hinnenkamp and is the mother of one child, Neta.

Mr. Darner and his family are members of the Evangelical church and in politics he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Darner were the first members of the Zion church and in the same he was class leader for many years. He is one of the trustees of the church and has thus served from the time of its organization. The year after he moved to the farm Mr. Darner helped to build the "Union Hall," an old landmark of Island Grove township. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has efficiently served as justice of the peace, assessor, and member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. Progressive in citizenship, he has rendered valuable service in all movements for the public good and he and his family are held in the highest of esteem by all who know them.

JOSEPH BURES is a progressive young farmer of Glenwood township and by indefatigable industry and faithfulness to his work he has risen to a prominent place in the agricultural circles of his township. Mr. Bures is a son of Frank and Anna (Nespor) Bures, who was born, reared and educated in Bohemia, their married life commencing in the homeland, in 1856. In 1861 they left their native land, filled with ambition to better their

condition by coming to the land where there have always been great opportunities for the hard-working and faithful man. They first made their home in Jones county, Iowa, where they rented land until 1875, when they established their home as pioneers in Saline county, Nebraska. In 1879 they came to Gage county and purchased land in Paddock township. Here Mr. Bures continued his earnest labors until he sold his land to his son Joseph, the subject of this sketch. Frank Bures was born in Bohemia, December 5, 1832, and makes his home with his son Joseph. His wife, who was born February 5, 1839, and who for sixty years was her husband's constant companion, passed to her reward August 17, 1916. Mrs. Bures was a faithful member of the Catholic church and imbued her sons with the love of the church and of the God whom she worshiped. Of the three children two are living, Frank being deceased; John resides in Elm township; and Joseph is the subject of this sketch.

Joseph Bures was born February 4, 1873, in Jones county, Iowa, and was about seven years old when his parents established their home in Paddock township, Gage county. He remained under the parental roof until he was 27 years of age. His education was received in the district schools and he served his apprenticeship as a farm hand for two or three seasons ere he launched on a farming career for himself. In 1900 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Paddock township, and here he farmed until 1905, when he sold the property and purchased his present home farm, in Section 2, Glenwood township. He has built a large, modern house and made various other improvements in his farm buildings. In 1908 he purchased two hundred acres in Section 12, and this he is farming in conjunction with his home place.

April 7, 1899, Mr. Bures married Mary Cacek, who is a daughter of Bohemian parents who came to Gage county to farm and to rear their children. Mary (Cacek) Bures was a schoolmate of her husband's and the friendship which had grown between the young girl and the ungainly, growing lad ripened into love, their marriage being the culmination of their early friendship. Mary Cacek was born June 11, 1880, in Gage county, and is a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Teple) Cacek, natives of Bohemia. Mr. and Mrs. Bures became the parents of six children: Joseph, Albert, Clara, Rosa, and Charles are under the parental roof, and Anton is deceased.

Mr. Bures is a breeder of Chester White hogs and is farming his land in a very efficient manner. His home is among the many nice ones of the township. In politics Mr. Bures votes the Democratic ticket and he is a member of the Catholic church. He is affiliated with the Z. C. B. J., a Bohemian brotherhood.

WILLIAM E. RIFE, city treasurer of Beatrice, has for the past thirteen years been closely identified with the business interests of the city and county. He was born at Seneca, La Salle county, Illinois, February 11, 1867, a son of Ephraim and Savilla (Cochran) Rife, the former born in Pennsylvania, in 1834, the latter born in New York, in 1844. The parents married in Illinois and there Ephraim Rife became a farmer and merchant. He remained in the state of Illinois until 1881, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, five miles east of Wilber, where he resided three years. He then traded for a farm near Adams, where the family made their home two years. On disposing of this tract the parents moved to Lincoln, where they resided five years, and they then became residents of Red Cloud, Nebraska, where they spent their remaining days, the father passing away in 1896, and the mother surviving until 1913. Ephraim Rife was a successful man in business and he and his wife were lifelong members of the Methodist church. Eleven children were born to them and eight of the number are now living: John H., a merchant in western Nebraska; Samuel L., a business man of Bridger, Montana; William E., of this review; Katura, married and residing in Seattle, Washington; Grace, the wife of G. L. Griffis, vice-president of the Blue Valley Mercantile Company, at Beatrice; Susan, the wife

of Mr. Bauffman, residing at San Francisco, California; Elmer Roy, in the employ of the Standard Oil Company at Red Cloud, Nebraska; and Lydia, the wife of Rev. I. F. Roach, of Oklahoma City, who for five years was pastor of the Methodist church at Lincoln, Nebraska.

William E. Rife was reared on a farm, acquired his education in the public schools, and followed farming until he was twenty-eight years of age. He then engaged in business at Red Cloud, Nebraska, making his home there for ten years. He then, in 1905, came to Beatrice and became one of the promoters of the Blue Valley Mercantile Company, with which wholesale concern he was actively connected, as a buyer, until 1916. He is still a member of the board of directors of the company. In 1916 he established mercantile stores at Clatonia and Pickrell, and these are still conducted by him.

In December, 1916, Mr. Rife was appointed city commissioner of Beatrice, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. G. P. Reynolds, and was made treasurer at the same time. At the election in April, 1918, Mr. Rife was duly elected to the same office, a fact which attests to the confidence and esteem in which he is uniformly held.

In 1889, at Lincoln, Nebraska, was solemnized the marriage of William E. Rife and Miss Magdaline Wooden, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, and they became the parents of seven children: George Edward, of Denver, Colorado, is now in the military service of the United States and is located at Newport News, Virginia, at the time of this writing; Grace Bell is the wife of Henry Doerch, manager of Mr. Rife's store at Pickrell; Beulah Irene is a bookkeeper in the Beatrice City Hall; Floyd Ivan is at Deming, New Mexico, in the service of the United States; Pearl Le Van died in infancy; Lydia Mae is at home; and William E., Jr., also is under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Rife are members of the Methodist church and Mr. Rife is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is deputy grand master; the Fraternal Order of Eagles; the Royal Highlanders; and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife also affiliate with the Daughters of Rebekah and the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Rife is a Republican in politics and is one of the substantial men of the city, where his support can be depended on for any measure that is of benefit to the people of the community.

DENNIS MAGNER has been a resident of Gage county for fifty years, and is still engaged in agricultural pursuits in Island Grove township, as one of the sterling pioneers of the county.

Dennis Magner was born in County Cork, Ireland, in September, 1833, and is a son of David and Margaret (Landers) Magner, who spent their entire lives in the Emerald Isle and who were the parents of eight children, Dennis being the only one now living; John and Winnie came to America about 1848, settling in Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives. Dennis Magner came to the United States in 1851 and after a residence of nine years in Chicago he located in Iowa, making his home there until 1868, when he came to Gage county, Nebraska. Here he secured a homestead in Island Grove township, and this has been his home continuously since pioneer days. He came to the county the next year after Nebraska had become a state, and pioneer conditions were to be found on every hand. He set about improving his farm, tilling the soil, planting and harvesting, and he has met with that success which properly rewards intelligently directed effort. He is to-day the owner of four hundred acres of good land.

Mr. Magner was married, in Ohio, in 1859, to Miss Margaset Shannahan, a native of Ireland, and this union has been blessed with seven children, four of whom are living: Margaret became the wife of Mr. Betro and resides in the state of Washington; Edmund resides at Maple Falls, Washington; and Anastasia and John F. are at the parental home.

The family are communicants of the Catholic church at Wymore and in politics Mr. Magner is a Republican. With no unusual advantages at the beginning of his career, ex-

cept a laudable ambition and a determination to succeed, the advancement of Mr. Magner has come to him as the result of his own efforts. He is now living practically retired, having placed labor's burden on younger shoulders, and he is enjoying the rest which he justly deserves.

WILLIAM L. DEWEY. — A native of Gage county, and a representative of one of its pioneer families, William L. Dewey was born on a farm on Wolf creek, August 13, 1866. His father, Timothy Dewey, was born in Ohio and in 1859 came to Gage county, Nebraska Territory, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of land. After proving up on this land he made his home in Iowa four years. Returning to Gage county, he became a successful farmer and here he passed the remainder of his days. He disposed of his homestead and purchased land in the Otoe Indian reservation, but later he returned to Island Grove township and purchased the land where his son William L. now resides. He and his brother William were here during the Indian uprising, and were among the very early settlers of the county, sharing in all of the hardships and pioneer experiences of those times. He was a cousin of Admiral George Dewey, who won fame at the battle of Manila Bay, that memorable May 1, 1898. The progenitors of the Dewey family came to America during the colonial period of our nation's history. The mother of our subject was Margaret (Pilcher) Dewey, a native of Connecticut, and of her six children, five are living: Mrs. Minnie Titus resides in Iowa; William L. is the subject of this sketch; Selicia is the wife of Louis Curry, a merchant at Stroud, Oklahoma; Charles is a farmer in Oklahoma; and Belle remains in Gage county.

William L. Dewey was reared and educated in Gage county and took up farming as a life work, wisely choosing the occupation for which he had been fitted under the direction and teaching of his father. In October, 1913, he purchased the interest of the other heirs and became owner of the old home farm in Island Grove township, where he successfully carries on general farming and stock-raising.

In 1891 Mr. Dewey was united in marriage to Miss Anna Retchless, a native of New York state and a daughter of William Retchless, who settled in Pawnee county, Nebraska, in 1877. In 1887 Mr. Retchless became a resident of Gage county, where he passed the remainder of his life.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey became the parents of six children: Charles is a resident of Armour, Nebraska, where he conducts an elevator and is agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad; Fannie and Herbert are at home; Nellie is the wife of Steve Rotney, of the state of Washington; and Hattie and George are the younger children. In August, 1908, Mr. Dewey was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, and her death called from earth a devoted wife and loving mother.

Mr. Dewey is a Republican in politics and has served in various township offices. He is a member of Liberty Lodge, No. 152, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, and his life is definitely guided by the benevolent teachings of this time-honored fraternity. He is progressive in his methods and is a successful farmer and stock-raiser.

FRANK DVORAK. — On the farm known as "Sunny Slope," in Section 29, Glenwood township, live Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dvorak. This farm was owned by O. J. Lyndes, of Beatrice, until 1914, when Mr. Dvorak purchased it and established his home upon the veritable "Sunny Slope." Since 1915 he has been doing a general farming business, and he is one of the progressive exponents of farm industry in Gage county.

Frank Dvorak was born February 18, 1891, at Table Rock, Pawnee county, Nebraska, and is a son of Anton and Antonia (Svarscop) Dvorak. Anton Dvorak, who was born in 1865, in Bohemia, came with his parents to this country in 1874, and the family settled in Pawnee county, where the parents farmed until their death. For further family history reference may be made to the sketch of Anton Dvorak, on other pages of this volume.

Frank Dvorak received the education and

the opportunities of the average lad of to-day, when we have free schools and text-books of excellent order. After finishing his schooling he chose farming as his calling in life and chose as his home the sunniest spot in Glenwood township, known as "Sunny Slope."

To share his home with him he chose Miss Anna Zaribnicy, and their marriage was solemnized May 11, 1915. Mrs. Dvorak is a daughter of Frank and Theresa (Bednar) Zaribnicy, the former a farmer of Glenwood township, and the latter deceased. Mr. Zaribnicy married for his second wife, Miss Anna Kalsus. Mr. and Mrs. Dvorak are members of the Presbyterian church and the Democratic party receives his political support.

AMOS SPROWLS. — For thirty-two years Amos Sprowls has been a resident of Gage county, and in the work of development he has contributed his full share. Mr. Sprowls is a native of the old Keystone state, born September 7, 1835, and is the only survivor of a family of nine children born to William and Anna (Montgomery) Sprowls, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they spent their entire lives. The father was a farmer and made a specialty of raising Spanish Merino sheep, being a good judge of those animals and well versed in proper methods of breeding and raising them. He brought his flock to a high standard, and the subject of this sketch recalls that at one time his father had a flock of two hundred ewes, each yielding six pounds of wool. The paternal grandfather, Arthur Sprowls, was a native of Ireland, and during the days of the American Revolution he went to England, expecting to immigrate to America, but it was two years before he could get passage, owing to the war. He finally succeeded in securing passage on a sailing vessel, and he became an early settler of Pennsylvania, where he purchased one hundred acres of land and where he spent the remainder of his life. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Hugh Montgomery, who was born in Belfast, Ireland. He was a weaver by trade and at his death was a man of considerable wealth.

Amos Sprowls spent his boyhood days on a farm in his native state and his public-school education was supplemented by a course in Waynesburg College, his studies here being interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war, when he was compelled to return home. His two younger brothers, George and Jesse M., entered the Union army and Jesse was killed at Gettysburg. George was wounded and taken prisoner, sent to Andersonville and then to Richmond, where he was released, and the transport boat on which he was returning to his home was sunk, and he lost his life.

In 1866 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sprowls to Miss Elizabeth Enlow, who was born in Pennsylvania and whose ancestors were of English descent. After a married life of almost a half century Mrs. Sprowls was called to the home beyond, in 1914, having become the mother of five children, namely: Thomas Willard Sprowles, of Chicago, Illinois, where he is connected with the Butler Memorial House, was formerly in active service as a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was educated at historic Washington and Jefferson College, in Pennsylvania, and Nebraska Wesleyan University, at Lincoln. The other children — Luella Martha, William Enlow, Horace Alvin, and Francis Vernon — all remain at the paternal home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Sprowls is a Democrat. He came to Gage county in 1886 and purchased 240½ acres of land, on which he has made substantial improvements, his farm being to-day one of the valuable properties of Island Grove township. In all work of improvement and progress Mr. Sprowls has taken an active interest, and for many years he has held secure place as one of the representative agriculturists of Gage county.

M. H. FREEL. — The subject of this record is one of the self-made men of Gage county, and he owns and operates a well improved farm in Island Grove township.

M. H. Freel is a native of Wayne county,

Iowa, where he was born in 1852, a son of Benona and Margaret (Prentice) Freel, natives of Indiana. They were married in Illinois and became residents of Nebraska before the Civil war. They settled in Richardson county, where they resided for many years. They then came to Gage county, where their last days were spent. They were members of the Methodist church and in politics Mr. Freel was a Republican. Of the thirteen children six are now living.

M. H. Freel was only a boy when the home was established in Nebraska, and he was reared on a pioneer farm. He attended the public schools, and when he became a man he chose the calling to which he had been reared, and became a farmer. In 1876 he married Miss Sarah Main, a native of Iowa, and while they have not been blessed with children of their own they have reared five children. Mr. and Mrs. Freel are members of the Christian church and in politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Freel is the owner of two hundred acres of valuable farm land, well improved, and his success has been achieved through his own efforts. Having come to Nebraska when this state was a pioneer district, he has been an eye-witness of the innumerable changes that have taken place, and in this work of transformation he has contributed his full share.

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